THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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SOAR-ing into the semester

Photo courtesy of @muhlenbergcollege on Instagram

By Sarah O'Sullivan
Contributing Writer

As cars drive up for the first day of college move-in, they just as quickly disappear into a sea of students in matching red volunteer t-shirts screaming with excitement at their arrival. The minute the car stops, it is swarmed. Surrounded by the cheers of eager upperclassmen, first-year-students and returning sophomores are welcomed home.

Lily Knowles '23 is one of the orientation leaders grabbing bags and cheering. For the past two years Knowles has been an orientation leader, and she notes the extreme difference in energy and overall experience when the program was in-person versus online. "Last year was tough. This year was a complete 180."

Despite having a similar curriculum for orientation both in-person and on Zoom — attending the Sedehi Diversity Project and participating in discussions about campus services and campus culture — the ultimate difference was human connection.

The students who planned orientation expressed the same sentiment. Emily Burns '22, who was an orientation team leader this year, stated that "Being an orientation team leader was one of the best experiences I've had here at Muhlenberg. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to have learned so much from collaborating with this incredibly passionate group of orientation leaders. I cannot wait to see how the orientation program continues to grow and expand, impacting more and more individuals!"

One major reason for the success of orientation this year was the orientation leaders returning to the typical training schedule of years past. The orientation leaders, or "OLs," moved back a week early to prepare for the underclassmen's arrival. This allowed them to form close connections with each other. Knowles added, "The first thing the first-years saw was our connections to each other, and they saw a group that was really close and held so much love for each other and that foreshadowed the connections they're going to make at Muhlenberg."

"When I started orientation week I couldn't understand why everyone was so excited to go through hours of training, but I now see that orientation was the best way to get back into an in-person semester," said Maya Brooks '24, a first-time orientation leader. "I made 70 new friends on campus and my friends are constantly asking me how I know so many people. Becoming an orientation leader was the best decision I've made at 'Berg and it truly is an amazing group of people."

As always, the orientation leaders were a high energy group. As a result, they were able to facilitate an exciting transition for first-years, even though move-in can be an overwhelming experience for all students.

Both the first-years and the rest of the student body were able to form a bond from this excitement of new journeys and new beginnings after a long time apart. "We're all back on campus and feeling the excitement so it's sort of a shared connection which is really special," Knowles said.

Last year, many new students and their orientation leaders hadn't been able to share such a bond, so the orientation experience was further enhanced.

There was some overlap between first-year orientation and the Sophomore Orientation and Reconnection (SOAR), but they were still able to have their own separate candle-lighting ceremonies and kick-offs. As she and the rest of the orientation leaders prepared to perform their traditional flashmob, Knowles was unsure whether the sophomores would be excited or awkward, but she was overwhelmed by the energy they shared.

This semester, SOAR gave the opportunity for sophomores to get the full experience they weren't able to have last year and express their full excitement for being on campus. Though there was a form of online orientation last year, establishing a community through a screen is not ideal, especially at a school like Muhlenberg where there is typically such a strong and connected student population.

Molly Layden '24 was pretty hesitant about attending SOAR events but was pleasantly surprised by how much she enjoyed her time there. Since she had already been on campus her first year and attended orientation online last year, "A lot of the descriptions were things said to mark the beginning of your journey at Muhlenberg but... I've already started my Muhlenberg journey and I'm already a quarter of the way through."

Yet these events allowed for sophomores, like Layden, to have their own space and own excitement about being on campus as a group. After attending the candle-lighting ceremony and social events, Layden said that "It was nice to feel that connection with my class on campus that I just didn't feel with online orientation."

Orientation leader Dylan De Magistris '24 shared, "Orientation weekend was very well executed. The OL staff was highly trained and prepared to help incoming students transition into a college routine. It's exciting to watch my o-kids be out-going, mak[ing] new friends, and flourish[ing] in their first few weeks of classes."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

08/26/2021
Prosser Drive: Report of found speaker, unknown to whom item belongs, speaker placed in lost and found locker.
The Village: Report of hit and run to vehicle causing damage to bumper, no suspects at this time.

08/27/2021
Seegers Union: Report of injured student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Seegers Union: Report of found wallet, message left for owner to pick up at Campus Safety.
Leh Street: Report of noise complaint, upon arrival area cleared and residents identified and spoken to, Disruptive Conduct Policy Violation issued.
Albright Street: Report of fire alarm from accidental pull of pull station, system silenced and reset.

08/28/2021
Seegers Union: Report of found pills unknown to who item belongs, pills placed in property.
Tilghman Street: Report of noise complaint upon arrival area cleared and residents identified and spoken to, no further incident.

08/29/2021
The Village: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Prosser Hall: Report of alcohol violation, individuals identified and spoken to, investigation to continue.

08/30/2021
East Hall: Report of fire alarm from condensation in smoke detector, work order placed for Plant Operations to repair
Off Campus Location: Report of disturbance, individual spoken to, investigation to continue.

08/31/2021
Off Campus Location: Report of injured student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

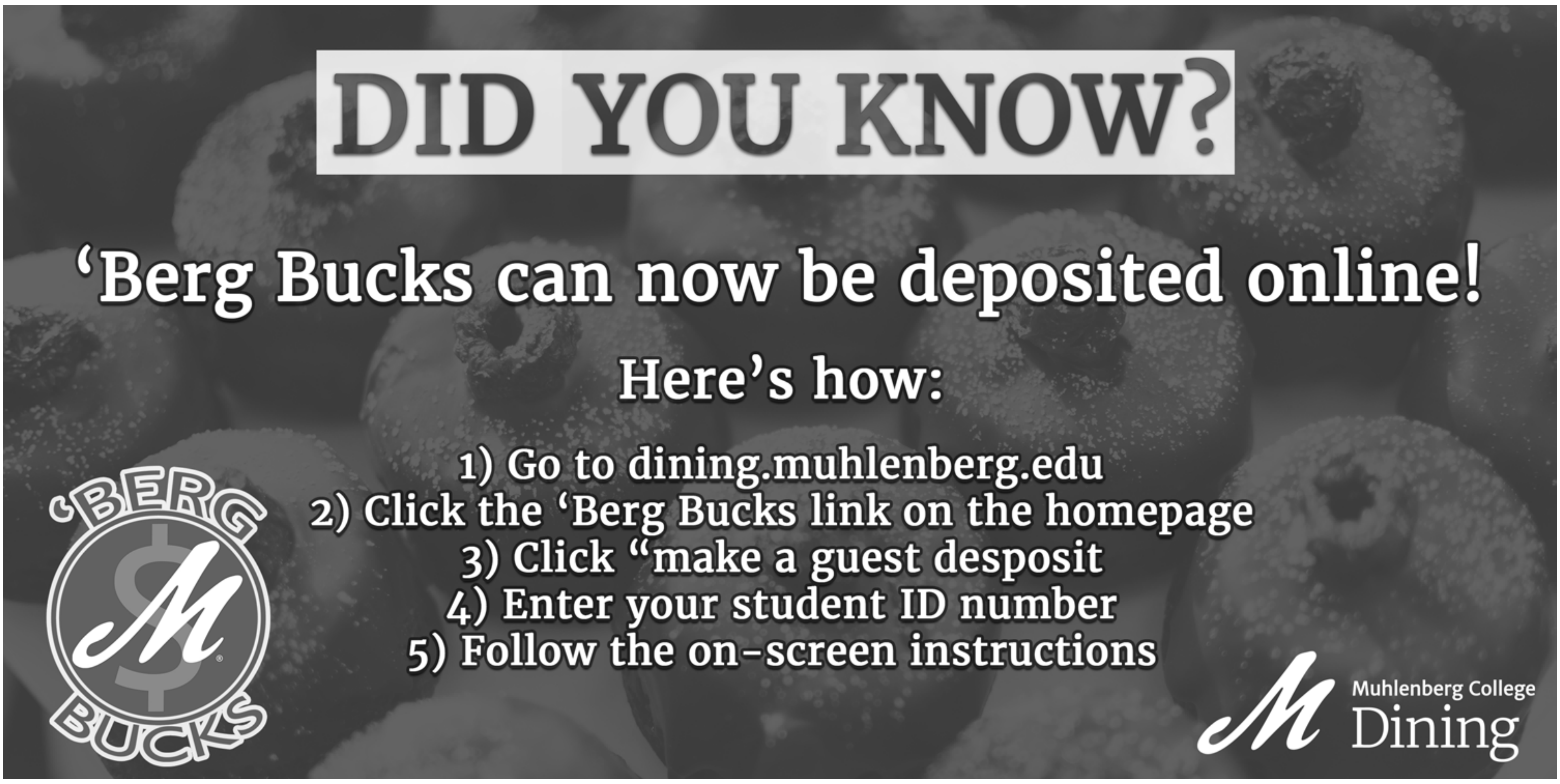
09/01/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of power outage, Officer reset breaker switch.
Prosser Hall: Report of found AirPod case, unknown to whom item belongs, item placed in lost and found locker.
Life Sports Center: Report of alarm from AED box, Officers secured box upon arrival.

09/02/2021
Benfer Hall Lot: Report of keys locked in vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully retrieved keys from vehicle.
Walz Hall: Report of found iPhone, unknown to whom item belongs, item placed in lost and found locker.

09/03/2021
Prosser Hall: report of theft of clothes, no suspects at this time

09/04/2021
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): Report of suspicious odor, individuals identified and spoken to.

09/05/2021
Chew Street: Report of alcohol violation, individual transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Seegers Union: Report of alcohol violation, individuals identified and spoken to, Allentown EMS responded and transported individual to hospital.
Chew Street: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.



DID YOU KNOW?

'Berg Bucks can now be deposited online!

Here's how:

1) Go to dining.muhlenberg.edu
2) Click the 'Berg Bucks link on the homepage
3) Click "make a guest desposit
4) Enter your student ID number
5) Follow the on-screen instructions

'BERG BUCKS

Muhlenberg College Dining

Study Abroad Fair returns to campus

By Ally Duvak
co-news editor

This Tuesday, Sept. 14, the Study Abroad Poster Fair returned to Seegers Union. The exciting event filled the Great Room with colorful displays, interest lists full of names and stories of trips away – even during the past year and a half. In 2022, the Office of Global Education hopes that Muhlenberg students will travel as normal. There are 141 programs to choose from.

Students have the opportunity to participate in Muhlenberg's first ever domestic Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad (MILA) course, This Land Is Your Land: The Potomac. After taking the class in the spring semester, the professors and students of this class will travel on a 15 day intensive experience throughout the territory adjacent to the Potomac River in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia. The program is led by Linda Miller, associate professor of the creative writing department, Matthew. R. Moore, Ph.D., assistant professor of the theatre department, and Jeremy Alden Teissere, Ph. D., chair of the neuroscience department. Students are encouraged to reach out to any of the aforementioned professors if they are interested in participating in the inaugural trip of this new program.

Some students did get to travel abroad in spite of COVID-19 restrictions. Melanie Poulos '22 described her recent trip to Italy as "incredible... [but] too short." According to Poulos, COVID-19 regulations were "a little strict" but were also already in flux this summer. The 10 p.m. curfew and indoor and outdoor mask mandates she saw upon arrival were altered to a midnight curfew and more flexible mask wearing by the time she departed.

For students planning to travel in the future, Poulos advises to "stay open-minded" and added, "Don't be afraid... obviously when I got there I was a little nervous, but everyone was so nice."

Michelle Rifkin '13, administrative assistant for the Office of Global Education, shared similar sentiments, expressing her excitement at the return of the program. "We did virtual meetings last year... but it's just not the same... it's so nice to be back... to have these pamphlets with over 140 programs in them... it's so different being in person versus being on a screen."

There was a bit of a gap in the amount of students studying abroad over the past couple of semesters, but the program is seeing an influx of new arrivals. "Many of our student representatives have graduated which we're really sad about," Rifkin commented. "But we're excited to see new students getting involved."

As far as advice for those new students, Rifkin, like Poulos, advises to be open-minded and flexible. "Countries and programs are changing their policies all the time – just like they are at Muhlenberg." But if you have some fears about going through with a semester of international travel, Rifkin says, "Don't rule it out... or do a MILA. Go away for a few weeks, see if you like it, and then maybe you'll spend a semester or summer abroad like I did."

OCEANIA
BRITISH ISLES
PHOTO BY ALLY DUVAK/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Students browse the selection of study abroad programs.

And if the worst case scenario comes around and another shutdown occurs, Rifkin says there are still options. According to her, students from Muhlenberg who were forced to return home completed their credits online successfully.

But if this situation does arise, the travel experience of studying abroad would be unfortunately irreparable. Caylyn Downey '22 is one of many students who were boarding a plane back home not long after arrival in their abroad destination in March 2020. Downey recalls that "Getting sent home was heartbreaking. As someone who has always wanted to travel it felt unreal that all of a sudden everyone had to go back home. I felt pulled away from the one experience I would never get back. Adjusting to online classes was not easy. I was stuck in a depressive mindset with no motivation to do work. This really affected what I got out of the classes I took. I feel like I didn't learn as much as I hoped."

In this new pandemic era, the risk of a potential shutdown is an unavoidable one. Though the Office of Global Education hopes for a typical return to studying abroad, the future, as usual, is uncertain and unprecedented.

The evolution of the M.U.L.E. Cabinet

By Katherine Conlon
co-news editor

Located in the basement of Seegers Union, tucked away from the crowds of students is Muhlenberg's food pantry, the M.U.L.E. (Muhlenberg Useful Living Essentials) Community Cabinet. The Cabinet began its work in 2019, with a mission to provide students experiencing food or resource insecurity with the supplies they need.

Two years have passed since the Cabinet's opening and in that time it has continued to develop. Rev. Jannelle Neubauer, faculty advisor to the Cabinet and college chaplain, posed the question, "Now that we have the Community Cabinet, our hope and focus is: how do we keep encouraging the Cabinet to expand, to reach out, to meet the needs of different varying student bodies?"

The aspect of inclusivity is paramount in the minds of those operating the Cabinet. Neubauer noted that, "The cabinet is recognizing how different students have different needs, between on-campus students and off-campus, or especially MILE students." This is evident in the range of provisions offered by the pantry.

Textured hair products, food that accommodates a variety of dietary restrictions and cleaning supplies are just some of the offerings added by the Cabinet in an effort to cater to the entire student body. Frozen meals provided by Red Door Catering is another newer item in the Cabinet's line-up, one that enables students to have a more balanced meal compared to the pre-packaged alternatives.

Neubauer commented that the Cabinet "has evolved from just being food-oriented to also recognizing the hygiene needs of students and that students need cleaning supplies because living in MILE housing you have to clean for yourself. That's an added cost that you don't necessarily consider upfront."

The Cabinet is currently experiencing a transition in administration. Neubauer took over her position from the previous chaplain, Rev. Kristen Glass Perez, in July of 2021. In regards to the student leadership, Krystal Hall '21, the Cabinet's student founder, is currently training Summer Whitley '24 to become the sole student director in the upcoming semesters.

Whitley's current responsibilities include running the Cabinet for two out of the three days of operation and keeping track of inventory through the Cabinet's weighing system. Whitley intends to carry out the Community Cabinet's existing values saying, "My wish is for the M.U.L.E. Cabinet to become a more accessible, sustainable resource for those who attend this college. No one should have to sacrifice their food/hygiene security to be able to live on campus, and I hope that we grow to encompass—and continue to provide—materials that students need."

The Community Cabinet is expanding their reach not only through the materials they provide but also through their collaboration with other groups on campus. Challah for Hunger is one of the organizations that is looking to aid the Community Cabinet in their efforts. Neubauer explained that, "We're trying to work on a survey between Challah for Hunger [and] the M.U.L.E. Cabinet...in order to get more information to continue evolving the Cabinet." According to Neubauer, the results of the survey may produce a broader range of offerings and even possibly an additional satellite pantry, depending on the wishes of the student body.

PHOTO BY AYDEN LEVINE/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The M.U.L.E. Community Cabinet, located in Seegers Union Room 059, is open on Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m., Fridays from 1-3 p.m., and Saturdays from 11-2 p.m. If a student is not available at those times, they can email mulecabinet@muhlenberg.edu to set up a private appointment. Donations can be made either by individuals or organizations by sending an email to the aforementioned address. Only new, unopened items will be accepted.

'Berg Hillel celebrates Rosh Hashanah in-person

By Becca Baitel
Staff writer

Students gather at Muhlenberg Hillel's Rosh Hashanah dinner.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, students gathered together at the Leffell Center for Jewish Life to ring in the new year with a vibrant Rosh Hashanah dinner. With a full menu prepared by Sodexo, students piled their plates with Rosh Hashanah classics such as apples and honey and matzah ball soup. Over dinner, they came together to reconnect in the spirit of the holiday and start of the Jewish new year.

Regardless of religious affiliation or denomination of Judaism, Muhlenberg Hillel welcomes students of all backgrounds. This was clear from the impressive 120 person turn out, as well as the successful Shabbat dinner and first-year-student events the week prior. In addition to dinner, the Hillel executive board led some traditional prayers before the meal and an optional student-led service after.

The community atmosphere of the night was praised by many. Hillel president Paige Weisburg '22 expressed that "This event was so meaningful because it was a time for so many students to experience spending the High Holidays away from home. The strength and love within Muhlenberg Hillel makes it wonderful to gather together and create new traditions."

As president, Weisburg aims to prioritize gathering feedback from students to foster and encourage inclusion, warmth and openness. She plans to do this by listening and advocating for their needs. "I really want people to feel comfortable talking to me about what they expect and would like to see, and I am so excited to meet and get to know all different types of students," she shared. She also credits the help of her executive board in planning the dinner, specifically religious co-chairs Eden Chanko '23 and Hadas Seltzer '24.

"It was truly magical to see how many students came and from all different years at school," Chanko notes. "It was so important for Hillel to host an in-person event, especially for such a significant holiday."

After carefully planning the event and brainstorming since August, Chanko and Seltzer collaborated with the help of Hillel director Ira Blum '10 to make the event a success.

"The holidays are always times where people become very reflective in these moments of consciousness and presence over the past year, especially during the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur," Blum states. "It's very important to recognize that holidays are not just happy events, but they symbolize being more intentional and committing ourselves to being the best versions of ourselves in the coming year. As director, I see that as our work at Hillel... by being able to meet students wherever they are. We really aim to give them a smiling face and to see all of that in a vibrant and dynamic space like Hillel. We are so grateful for the help from the dining hall and for the delicious goodies and to see the kitchen buzzing and students coming out with smiling faces carrying food."

Other than the dinner, Hillel also organized a variety of events to celebrate the holiday including a challah bake and tashlich, an annual tradition based around traveling to a body of water and casting away one′s sins, usually by tossing bread into the water, in order to reflect and prepare for the upcoming year.

Chanko summarized her thoughts on the week's events, saying,"[Rosh Hashanah] is typically a holiday that is spent with friends and family in joyful moments and we wanted to create a space where that was possible for all students. The first night of Rosh Hashanah is a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Hillel is proud to be a place where we can create events that allow students to keep their Jewish traditions while also creating an engaging and special experience."

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES CONT.

Prosser Hall: Report of sick student, Health Services notified, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Baker Center for the Arts: Report of injured student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

09/06/2021
Hillside House: Report of animal complaint, upon arrival groundhog seen going into woods, no further incident.

09/07/2021
Walz Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, student transported to Student Health Services.
South Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, Student Health Services notified.

09/08/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, Student Health Services notified, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

09/09/2021
South Hall: Report of alcohol violation, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Prosser Lot: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.

09/10/2021
Front Quad: Report of found backpack and contents, unknown to whom item belongs, item placed in lost and found locker.

9/11/2021
Gordon Street: Report of damage to shrubs and solar lights, no suspects at this time.
Seegers Union: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

09/12/2021
Prosser Hall: Report of alcohol, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

SGA hosts fall kick-off

PHOTO BY RYAN DRATLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Students celebrate the beginning of the fall through fun activites like tie-dye.

> "Art is to console those who are broken by life."- Vincent Van Gogh

Berg's Got Talent spotlights vocal talent

By Raymond Ceres
Contributing Writer

photo by Raymond ceres/ the muhlenberg weekly

Rejoice Gospel Choir performs.

On Thursday, Sept. 9, students gathered in Seegers Union at 11 p.m. to attend Berg's Got Talent, a showcase of eight singing groups.

Zach Rabishaw '22, president of the A Cappella Council, helped organize and host the event which served as the first in-person, indoor and maskless performance since the shutdown in March of 2020. Rabishaw described it as "the culmination of my four years," and expressed "We're all super excited to be back. It's the thing we love most about Muhlenberg."

One major challenge facing the community of student ensembles is a drastic shortage in membership, as the current sophomore class was not able to audition last school year. For the first time, some members performed in multiple groups to help fill missing gaps, which helped foster a sense of community amongst the groups. Rabishaw stated that no tensions or rivalries exist, asserting "It's all about having fun and singing with friends."

"One of our groups is as small as five people, when each group usually ranges from 12 to 17. We lost two whole class years we weren't able to make up," said Rabishaw. Rabishaw is referencing the two classes of graduating seniors since the pandemic hit in 2020.

The call for new membership was reinforced throughout the night, with frequent reminders that sign up sheets would be available after the show, with a sizable draw as every seat in the event space filled. Additional rows of attendees formed and occupied standing room on the sides and back of the room.

Although the event was primarily an a cappella showcase, two additional groups, Rejoice Gospel Choir and GASP (Great American Songbook Project), featured vocal music in the performance.

Rejoice was the first group to hit the stage. They sang and swayed in unity, rallying up the crowd. Audience member Patricia Madrigal '25 commented that "As soon as the singing began, I got goosebumps."

The next performance was by GASP, who performed an arrangement of the popular 1920s tune, "Orange Colored Sky."

Desmond Reifsnyder '22, a long-time member of the group, described GASP as "tight-knit," and added that the inclusion of a piano accompanist differentiates them from the others.

The six a cappella groups were introduced with short clips. Each group has its own distinct style and vibe depending on the members within the group.

CODA, which featured female, genderfluid and non-binary vocalists, was up first. Their soloist, Alex Goldman '22, inspired cheers to every impressive note. They were followed by Acafellas, the all-male and non-binary a cappella group, who sported their signature flannels.

The next four groups encompassed all genders and covered a variety of musical genres including Noteworthy, a Broadway group; Chaimonics, a Jewish group (with many non-Jewish identifying members); Dynamics, the oldest running group; and InAcchord, a contemporary R&B group.

The performances flew by with not one second wasted. The groups maintained a pulse throughout the crowd until the very end of the show that would make anyone forget it was minutes until midnight.

"The energy was just electric," expressed Aidan White '25, eagerly. "As a potential future member, I saw their love for the craft and desire to be a part of that."

Steven Belloise '25 was struck by the diversity of sound and talent on display. "One group had four key changes, one girl had tons of riffs, there was beatboxing, amazing harmonies, and audience participation," he remarked.

Lily Magoon '24 described the singing groups as "a big part of 'Berg," pointing attention to the large number of students studying theater, music and dance.

> "The energy was just electric. As a potential future member, I saw their love for the craft and desire to be a part of that."

The success of the event proves not only the opportunities for students to pursue their interests, but also the pride shared by the student body for the thriving vocal music community on campus.

In the three days following Berg's Got Talent, the groups held auditions in Moyer Hall. They will continue to host events throughout the year.

"There was something so cool about singing in person again after over a year of being online- you could feel the energy in the room," explained Alexandra Rivers, president of Noteworthy. "The performers, the audience- everyone was just happy to be there."

Maya Rabinowitz '24 shared her reaction to the event. "It was incredibly moving to see my classmates perform and be so passionate about something. Everyone here is so talented it's overwhelming. The room was packed and so supportive. You could feel the love while sitting in the audience."

Fall 2021 SEDEHI Diversity Project boldly raises marginalized voices on campus

By Danny Milkis
A&C Editor

PHOTO BY JESS ROSEN/ THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SDP cast members during the community performance on Friday, September 10th, 2021.

On Friday, Sept. 10, eager students and faculty scanned their e-tickets at the door of the Baker Theatre and took their seats for what would be, for many, their first in-person Muhlenberg performance in roughly a year and a half. This momentous occasion took the form of the community performance of an ongoing staged conversation about issues of campus-wide equity, which takes place on an annual basis, known as the SEDEHI Diversity Project.

The SEDEHI Diversity Project (SDP) is an event sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Life, the Office of the Provost, the Dean of Academic Life and the Dean of Students, is a cross-campus initiative whose goal is to raise awareness for marginalized voices through the collection of anonymous student interviews. With this data, the director and the cast were able to transform the responses into a flowing string of dialogue, spoken over a period of 35 minutes by a cast of students who moved in over the summer to rehearse.

SDP saw its 2021 debut, as per tradition, during first-year orientation week, as the incoming students would be required to attend a viewing of the piece as part of their orientation process.

The ensemble, a group of talented and passionate students, consisted of Sidney Caruth ‘23, Ale Cepeda ‘23, Tessa Forster ‘23, Hannah Goodman ‘23, Hannah Michelson ‘22, Elizabeth Muriel ‘23, Ruhani Singh ‘23 and Brayden Stallman ‘23. It was stage managed by Lauren Koranda ‘23. Singh made the audience aware that this cast was not only made up of theatre students, but of representatives from many academic disciplines.

As the house lights dimmed, the dark blue curtain rose, to reveal the project’s student director, Joey Marcacci ‘23. Marcacci prefaced his speech with a land acknowledgment, stating that “This performance is taking place on stolen Lenape land.” He then went on to provide context for this year’s theme, giving a general content warning that “this performance will be touching on sensitive topics, such as racism, discrimination, COVID-19, mental health, safety, Title IX and campus life.” After a brief word of welcome, the performance began, and did so with a bold, unified statement by the ensemble:

“I feel like a lot of people are saying ‘I hear you,’ but are you understanding?”

> “I feel like a lot of people are saying
> I hear you,
> but are you understanding?”

Marcacci’s direction was filled with nuance and character, carried by very visceral yet thoughtful touches throughout the performance. One of the most poignant visual attributes of the production was the presence of a semi-transparent screen in the middle of the stage. This was utilized when actors made statements that were outside the realm of any experience they could personally speak to, and symbolized a kind of anonymity.

At certain points throughout the dialogue, performers would step outside of the script, and make statements with reference to their own experiences. When doing so, the performer in question would make an announcement to the audience, following the format of “This is ____ speaking for myself...,” to keep viewers in the loop.

Following the performance, the ensemble members made a line at the front of the stage, and introduced themselves one by one. Marcacci then broke through the applause to inform the audience that there would be a discussion in the area outside of the theatre, in which a number of students would be joined by faculty advisor Leticia Robles-Moreno, P.h.D, assistant professor of theatre, to speak on thoughts or questions from the audience.

“I think that coming off of COVID, it was very important to address the world that we’re leaving and how we’re moving forward,” said Stallman. “We took time to address the history of SDP because activism and the world has changed and grown since the project started in this format.”

Michelson shared, “The end result was really rewarding and to perform it in front of all those students, staff and faculty, I was reminded of why I wanted to be involved in the first place.”

“SDP is a project about accountability,” said Muriel. “Our entire goal is to see how campus culture is doing. How are administrators working on creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for every student, staff and faculty member on campus?”

New academic year, new faculty

By Johnny Veglia
Assistant A&C Editor

The Muhlenberg College campus continues to grow and evolve as the world and global health situation changes, but the College is also affected by an array of changes to faculty and staff as well. The theatre & dance administration at Muhlenberg has recently gone through a number of modifications to welcome new staff and to offer a new structure.

These changes also occurred because of the recent retirement of three influential staff members: Charles Richter, Curtis Drestch, and Shelly Oliver. Richter and Drestch served as the previous director of theatre and director of technical theatre & design, respectively, and Oliver was a tap instructor.

In addition to the retirements of these artists, Beth Schachter, Ph.D., is currently on medical leave and Jeffrey Peterson has resigned from the College.

This shakeup in staff has created new opportunities for talented professionals who hope to not only shape the lives of the students at Muhlenberg, but the artistic world as a whole. James Peck, Ph.D., the chair of the theatre department, stated, “With all of that transition, it has been a challenging time, but also one filled with opportunities for new perspectives and fresh energy. Hiring was a big focus in the spring and well into the summer.”

The change in the department extends beyond the faculty and staff hired over the last few months. The entire program has gone through a structural transition to allow for a handful of new positions and for a stronger foundation.

The reconfiguration of the department occurred over the past year and divided up the chair position of the administration so that one person was not in charge of the entire department.

“It became clear that the department had grown too large for one person to serve as chair of the entire department,″ said Peck. ″With responsibilities for the theatre curriculum, the faculty and staff of both the theatre and dance programs, and the co-curricular production program.

“We considered several different models, including the possibility of splitting into two separate departments.” However, the theatre & dance faculty and staff agreed they should still remain as one administration.

The new department now allows two chairs to oversee each art form, similar to how the department was run before the change. The chair of theatre is currently held by Peck, and Karen Dearborn is serving as the chair of dance. The role of the chairs is to oversee the curriculum for their respected division and to assist the faculty of said division, and to supervise advising to make sure new majors have the help they need and an advisor to support them.

The changes have also allowed for members of the theatre & dance department to have expanded roles in the curriculum.

Jess Bien now holds the position of director of operations and productions and Gianna Neal is now the office manager. Maya Costanzo is new to the department as the audience services and company manager. Rebecca Lustig, an assistant professor of costume design, is serving as the faculty director of the co-curriculum which allows for Lustig to institute conversation about guests artists and the departmental seasons.

Lustig and Bien both planned the ongoing departmental productions for the fall and spring semesters for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The new season is filled with important work and a world premiere of “Call Me By Any Other Name… Just as Sweet,” a queer deconstruction of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet,” directed by Nigel Semaj, a new faculty member.

Semaj is a visiting assistant professor for theatre with a focus in directing and is amongst the other new and exciting faculty members, such as You-Shin Chen, Robyn Watson, Jamie McKittrick and others.

Chen is the new assistant professor of scenic design and is shaping her role here at Muhlenberg by teaching courses and designing for the department productions. Chen described how she hopes for more representation in the design world and to “start cultivating more people of color in terms of theatre design.” The designer is also focused on preparing students to do research on projects to be respectful of the cultures and beauty of these stories when designing them for the stage.

Watson is currently a visiting lecturer in dance and chose Muhlenberg because it’s an intimate liberal arts institution and is also closer to her home of Philadelphia. For Watson, the world of dance is much more than just movement as it also allows for a “community” when in the classroom.

Watson declared, “My goal is for every student to be comfortable with how they move and how they sound. That is success for me.”

The new hires for the faculty called for student contribution to make sure the community felt comfortable with these new faculty members. Watson mentioned when describing her hiring process, “It made me realize how well the school cares for their students in reference of bringing in new faculty to make sure that they were the right fit.”

The department cares deeply about the student and faculty relationship. That is just as important for these new professors. Peck acknowledged, “I can say, too, that student input was a major factor in every decision. The best news is that we were able to hire six fantastic folks who are already having a positive impact on the department.”

Muhlenberg Weekly arts review series

“Topside” by You-Shin Chen

By Danny Milkis
A&C Editor

Recently, the artistic visionary of Muhlenberg theatre & dance faculty was featured in an inspirational way. You-Shin Chen, assistant professor of scenic design, had a feature in Broadway On Demand’s Short Film Festival, for her film project “Topside.”

Broadway On Demand (BoD) is a relatively new online streaming service that was created to bring works of theatre and visual art to quarantined arts-lovers, and now hosts a variety of media, from full-length pro-shot musicals to theatrical documentaries.

The team at BoD announced the event as “A short film festival to celebrate the innovative ways we’ve given space to theatre in a socially distant world. We’re excited to host creators across different media who have built short films with streaming in mind.”

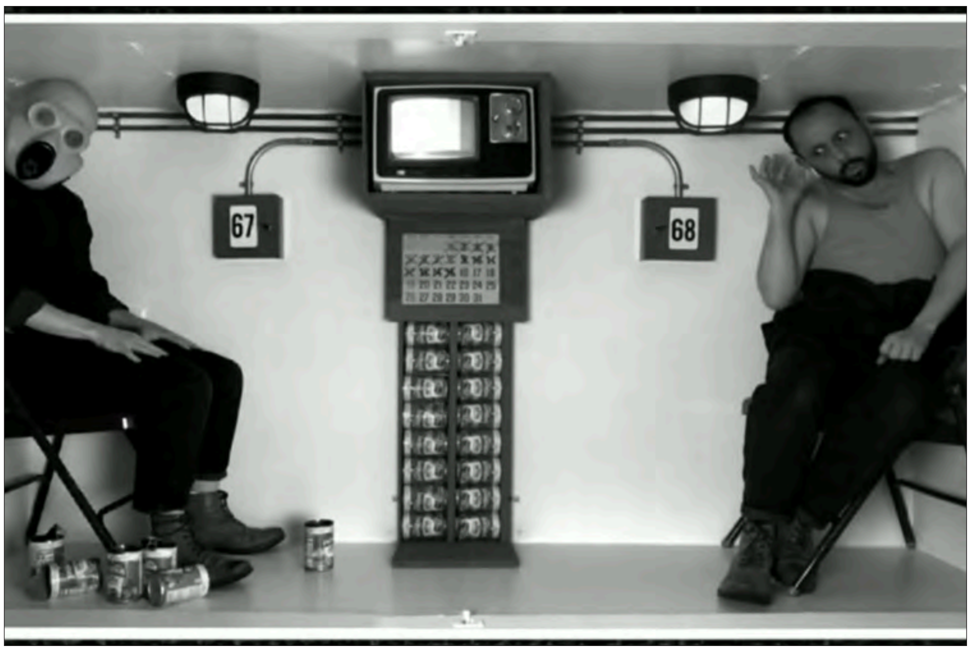
“[Chen] is a prolific and innovative designer who recently won the 2020 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Scenic Design, for Ars Nova′s ‘Mrs. Murray’s Menagerie,’” stated Rebecca Lustig, assistant professor of theatre, in a statement made to the theatre and dance community on Jun. 4. “[Chen] brings not only her beautiful design aesthetic but also her commitment to mentoring young performance-makers and to sustainability in performance production and her wide variety of work.”

Chen worked alongside a team of creatives to bring “Topside” to life, including writer and voice actor Scott Sheppard, director and performer Joshua William Gelb and sound designer Galvin Price.

Greeted with an ambient blend of abstract sound and nostalgic cocktail bar swing, a screen-sized box containing two men in chairs, one wearing a gas mask, and the other without, settled into frame. The inner monologue of the maskless man drove the plot forward, as his words beautifully orchestrated a grippingly desperate descent into madness.

One of the most poignant nuances of this piece was the usage of static effects, which radiated from an old-school television set, contributed to the aesthetic of a vintage nuclear fallout scene. The scenic design was stunning in texture, and used minimalism to communicate the immense discomfort surrounding the monotony felt by the protagonist.

Additionally, the language used throughout the piece was raw and spoken with a sense of contextual realism.



Throughout the film, the protagonist went back and forth on whether or not to use violence against the other man in the room, and even sadistically estimated how far he would have to push the social barrier before the man with the gas mask would be forced to pull a weapon on him. There were also moments of calm, when the voice in the protagonist’s head would simmer down and wallow in solemn acceptance of the fate that he had been stranded in this box for over 100 days, creating a strong polarity within the man’s emotional strata.

Of course, it is rather unpleasant to imagine a quarantine in that small of a space, and for that extent of time, but one that seems more relatable than ever coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, “Topside” was a very poignant and powerful example of absurdist visual art, and Chen’s scenic visionary added immensely to the dark, complex texture of the piece’s setting and characters.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

A Death, a Breath and Turmoil

By Faith Bugman
Contributing Writer

Trigger Warning: Suicide

Conceptually, I was ready for the pandemic to be over, almost as soon as it had begun.

It was a surreal, worldwide experience: there was inexplicable loneliness, disappointment and loss paired with a paradoxical moment for some of us to take a breath.

But that can be hard to admit, after all, there was a death count.

In hindsight, I cannot help but thank the momentary lapse of the stress associated with everyday life.

November 11th, 2019 was the last day I attended my senior year until early March, just before isolation began. Sometime before 11:22 p.m. that night in November, I had fallen asleep on FaceTime. 11:22. My best friend texted me, and within the next hour, he decided to end his life.

I did not go to school the next day. November 12th, 2019.

For about five months following his suicide and prior to COVID, I could not bring myself to go to school, the grief which overtook me after that night was truly unbearable. Two weeks before the world shut down I finally returned, as was insisted upon, I dropped a class, and struggled to look into the eyes of my classmates.

The majority of my life, I battled with anxiety and depression, and having to fight off horrible thoughts of self-harm. Now, I had lost someone I loved to suicide.

I wondered how I was possibly going to reinsert myself into "normal" life. I had spent so long living in a weird, numb and empty nightmare world. It seemed inescapable.

Then quarantine hit, and I had time to sit with myself. I had the time and means to make my everyday life enjoyable for me, and it was hard; unbelievably difficult, in fact, to learn how to care for myself in such a way that I was able to find beauty in life.

It did not happen instantly, but the coronavirus showed me that I could survive. And for the first time in my life, I was able to not only accept what had happened to me, but use it to catalyze any experience that brought me peace, warmth, happiness, a feeling of love, and home.

The pandemic allowed me to truly recover; I no longer had to deal with mind-altering grief alongside guilt. Rather suddenly, mental health was now equally as important as production.

And that's when I realized the Coronavirus, the three months off, would have saved Bobby.

Another pandemic lurks in the shadows of our lives: depression, anxiety, ADHD, ADD, addiction, PTSD, among other things.

Even if you have not personally met these illnesses, almost definitely, someone around you, someone you care about, has. Mental illnesses kill millions in the forms of suicides, overdoses, drunk driving accidents and even through the simple unhealthy habits it enacts on its victims.

For some, the isolation only heightened their symptoms.

To me, this screams that our basic knowledge of mental health is essentially nonexistent. There is no legitimate option to get urgent assistance, and there is no curriculum in school that begins to even touch on how to cope with the inconsistencies of life, others and ourselves. Quarantine helped me, but I had been going to therapy and going through time periods of medication for all of high school. I had learned the necessary tools, but I needed time to make changing my mindset my only goal. I was lucky, I worked very hard, and I had great support.

An unbelievable number of people are not necessarily blessed with any of these things, much less all of them. We have a health class, we have a gym class… why not a mental health class? Somehow our apparent need to work five days a week, everyday, for all of our lives, will always take precedence over individual needs. There is a path that is laid out for us at birth. There are options within that path, but so many of us are not given the tools we need to have a chance at the pursuit of happiness. Joy is not "profitable," but that does not mean it isn't worth it.

The gentrification of thrifting under the guise of environmental conservation

By Esther Oko
Contributing Writer

With the emergence of social platforms, such as TikTok, came this almost sudden appreciation of thrifting. It gradually became a trend to thrift clothes, possibly alter them and then post a haul online. Of course, this is appealing on so many levels: the clothes are cheap, peculiar in the sense that they can rarely be found elsewhere, and they are trendy. Thrifting has become an activity ascribed to those with idiosyncratic fashion styles—an appealing benefit that has allowed people to shop vintage clothes in the 21st century as a medium of self-expression. Although with many advantages, thrifting is now being gentrified by affluent people who are well-capable of shopping elsewhere. Well-off people shop at these stores not because it is all they can afford, but because they have the intention to amend the clothes to fit a certain aesthetic or simply to join the trend. Meanwhile, some people solely shop at thrift stores because it is all they can afford.

Even worse, some shop at these stores only to resell at ridiculously high prices on online marketplaces like Depop. The disheartening ramification of this is an increased demand, which will inevitably lead to an increase in prices that are beyond the means of members of the lower class whose wardrobes exclusively depend on thrift stores.

Given the fact that kids are often mocked by their peers for only wearing secondhand clothes, it is incredibly hypocritical how the same people are now enthused by the idea of conserving natural resources through thrifting. Even before thrifting became socially acceptable, people like myself had spent their entire lives wearing secondhand clothes. I genuinely believe that statements like "I thrift, because it is good for the environment," are only an excuse concocted by the upper class who thrift to rationalize the fact they are wearing already worn or tainted clothes. I see this as their way of keeping up appearances and saying to their peers, "I can afford to do better, of course, I just choose to thrift because it benefits our planet." What they fail to understand is that it is not a matter of choice for many. Our environment has always required preservation, so why is that the vindication they adopted once thrifting became mainstream? I wonder if this urge to sustain the environment that suddenly blossomed within the upper class will remain if thrifting becomes obsolete again.

Perhaps the most contradictory sentence in this article is this: everyone should thrift. Thrift not because everyone is doing it, but with a sincere desire to actively participate in environmental sustainability. Thrifting is not an activity to be embarrassed about and devising a justification is only perpetuating the stigma that surrounds thrifting. To those who thrift only to resell at significantly high prices and with a "vintage" label even when the item is not vintage: please stop. Everyone deserves to afford comfortable and fashionable clothes regardless of their income level, and your unethical actions will eventually hinder that.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

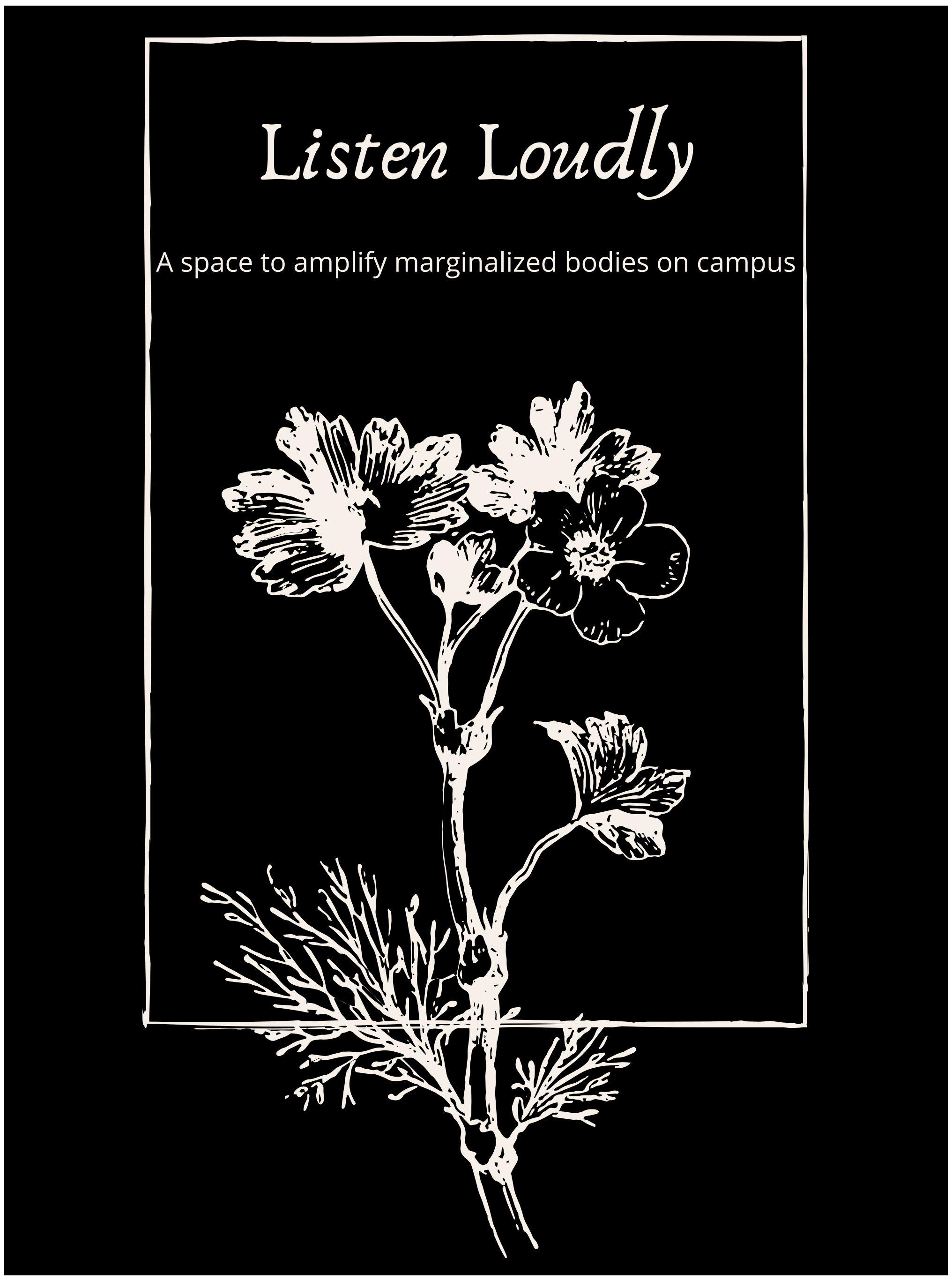
The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.


Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

The White Man's House

By Bernice Owusu

Growing up, I heard great stories about the white man, who brought civilization to my land
I was taught how to speak like him, dress like him, and worship like him
I was told I can only be successful if I am like the white man
I can only be beautiful if I am like the white man

And so my dream was to become like the white man

One day my dream became a reality, I traveled across the Atlantic to the "white man's land." There I saw a white castle, where the white man and his family lived happily. I was exhilarated, I wanted to join them but I was immediately stopped. I was told I belong in the mud

People like me worked in the mud day and night, rain or shine
Our identity, origin, and dignity were robbed. It was a prayer, it was a hope but now it is a fight. A fight that will transcend throughout generations, not to enter the white man's house but to build one of our own someday

Yes, we can talk about "it"

By Esther Oko

What about feminism?
You know,
Elizabeth Cady Stanton's legacy reverberates in my mind
Reminding me why I have a voice, a head full of ideas, and a mouth that speaks.
Perhaps she is sometimes a favorite of yours.
No, not how with white feminism comes an opaque door that shuts out the struggles of women of color.
What about medicine?
I'm sure I have told you countless times my fascination with our brains
The only organ that has thoughts of its own.
Perhaps you can tell me for hours at length what fascinates you.
No, not how lack of access to neurological care disproportionately affects Black and Brown folks.
What about family?
My little brother knows more about countries than I do, and he is only 9.
My little sister is wholly convinced that she is a princess born into a royal family.
Perhaps I could learn about your family's quirks as well if the time permits
No, not the stereotype that the majority of Black families have no father figures to "control" the home
What about our preferred daily courtesies?
We can get up in the morning and send a "good luck" text before the big test
Encourage one another to let our wings soar higher than our imaginations
Tell you to drive safely lest the weather intervenes
Perhaps you should let me know whether you are a morning person or not.
No, not how you might only have to worry about bad weather, while I worry about the police and bad weather.
No, we do not have to incorporate race into every conversation, but we could and maybe we should.
And that shouldn't be terrifying, because acknowledging apparent racial differences is one way to demonstrate intellectual and emotional maturity.
As scholars, we are taught to analyze from all perspectives to advance our understanding.
Race should not be the one facet that we avoid like a giant pothole.

FROM **BUTTER** PAGE 12

regular year, so being able to fully practice and compete in matches this year is super exciting, especially with the team we have this year," she said.

It was also the first collegiate tournament experience for Jenna Stockfeder '25 and Brooke Shiver '25. "I was very excited about playing in the Buttermaker Tournament. It was great to get out there and compete," said Stockfeder. Shiver, her fellow teammate and middle blocker, shares that same sentiment. "Playing collegiate volleyball has been a goal of mine for a long time, and I was excited my first tournament was at home with everyone here to cheer us on," Shiver said.

The tournament has afforded the team a great opportunity to build on top of the chemistry already there. "I think that this weekend we really started to get to know each other on the court—figuring out how to communicate and getting to know our individual playing styles," said Eglinton. "I hope we can continue to build on this foundation so that we'll really hit our stride once we get into conference play."

This weekend the Mules showed their potential and showcased their great rhythm during the Buttermaker Tournament, something that did not go unnoticed. "The biggest takeaway [from] this weekend is the growth that has been shown from week one to week two," he said. "I am very excited about the potential of the team if we can continue to improve as we have already," said McVicker.

"Our seniors deserve a good deal of the credit ... they kept the team working hard and

Their coach wasn't the only one who noticed this improvement. "There were certain moments and even entire sets where I could feel the team click, and we were able to execute a lot of great plays together. As the season progresses, our challenge will be to consistently play at a high level. I think we'll be able to do this as we become more confident and comfortable playing with each other," said Eglinton.

Megan Ray '22, who was named to the all-tournament team, feels that the group is moving in a great direction. "The biggest takeaway for me from the tournament was that we are capable of greatness," she said. "We just need to focus and trust one another on and off the court."

Ray also feels that, like all sports, not everyone is in sync. "We played and executed our game plan well in some moments. However, in other moments it didn't go so well," she said. "But that's how sports are. We can always try to be more consistent as a team."

The team has time to improve in practice and showed what they are capable of throughout the tournament. "I think that the team had an overall good tournament going 3-1 on the weekend. The biggest thing I noticed while playing was how excited everyone was for each other and how well we all played together as a team," said Faville.

Faville shares, "The biggest takeaway from this tournament for the rest of the season is focusing more on the positive parts of the games rather than the negative, but also being able to fix any errors," she said. "If we continue to play how we did in most of our matches this weekend, we will have a very good rest of the season."

There's only room to get better, and it was clear that this team is committed to being the best. "We're just going to keep getting better throughout the season. This isn't a team that gives up," said Shiver. "We've got a few weeks before conference games start, and we're going to put in the work to be ready. I'm really looking forward to the rest of this season and the next four years playing for the Mules." The Mules look to build upon their tournament success on Wednesday Sept. 15 at Scranton.

'Berg ice hockey continues its comeback

With anticipation building across campus, Louis Cocco '23 and Joey Marcacci '23 are doing all they can to bring back the beloved sport

By Kailie Strutin
Contributing writer

Back in 2019, The Muhlenberg Weekly published an article about preliminary talks of bringing back the ice hockey club team that was dismantled in 2017. Recently, founding members and co-presidents Joey Marcacci '23 and Louis Cocco '23 sat down to discuss how the re-emergence of the team is coming along.

Cocco explained the thought of bringing back the team had first been devised during his college selection process. "I knew Muhlenberg [was] where I wanted to go, but I heard rumblings. You know, a team, hey, we're thinking of starting a team, yada, yada. When I got here, no one was really doing that," Cocco said. He then posted on the Facebook group expressing interest in starting it up and Marcacci responded enthusiastically.

During the spring 2020 semester, when the planning started in full force and excitement began to increase, the pandemic hit and their momentum was halted. Once everyone was settled at home, both Cocco and Marcacci wasted no time building the foundations of the new 'Berg ice hockey team.

"Working throughout the pandemic, specifically our sophomore year, we put things in place. Getting on calls, talking with the athletics department, talking with The Rink at Lehigh Valley... basically getting everything ready to go so that when we got here in person... we could kind of have a running head start," Cocco said.

With the help of team manager Alex Blum '22, the squad is actively recruiting players of any age and gender with playing experience preferred, but not required. Practices will be at The Rink at Lehigh Valley in Whitehalland the players joining will have scrimmages next semester and a full season to look forward to in the fall.

Currently having meetings with the athletic department about a coach and SGA regarding funding, Marcacci and Cocco are excited to bring back the spirit of ice hockey that was first sparked at Muhlenberg in 1969. "Right now, we're just looking to get a solid team together that we can get on the ice," Marcacci said.

"There are just a couple little pieces that need to be put into the big jigsaw puzzle and then and then we're pretty much off to the races," said Cocco.

Leading the charge to bring ice hockey back, the Muhlenberg community's excitement has been one of the most enjoyable parts for Cocco. "I think my most favorite part has been just the whispers from people when we started the team, when we started the Instagram, when we started following a bunch of people and then just walking around and people are like, hey wait, aren't you starting that team, like the hockey team?"

Not only is this exciting for current students and staff, but for future students as well. Cocco explained that when they were tabling at the activities fair on Friday, Sept. 3, there was a prospective student, a hockey player, who enthusiastically walked up to the table.

Cocco had them sign up for the email list. So while on the sign up sheet there are many students listed as the Class of 2023, 2024 and some 2025, there is one dedicated for the Class of 2026.

The word is also spreading all across Allentown as Cocco shared how he was once in an Uber and began to speak with the driver about how he was working on bringing back the ice hockey team. Just the thought of this made the driver ecstatic because she used to go to the games.

Co-presidents Marcacci and Cocco hope that this team will not only be a source of excitement and community for the Muhlenberg campus but the greater Allentown area as well; breaking that so called "Muhlenbubble" and bridging the gap between the campus community and the Allentown community.

"If you play, if you have any experience, please reach out to us and let us know. We'd love to have you. And if you don't, be on the lookout for games and practices and all that good stuff," Marcacci said.

To the Allentown and campus communities who cannot wait to have ice hockey back at Muhlenberg, Cocco shared a simple message.

"Muhlenberg ice hockey fans, we love you guys."

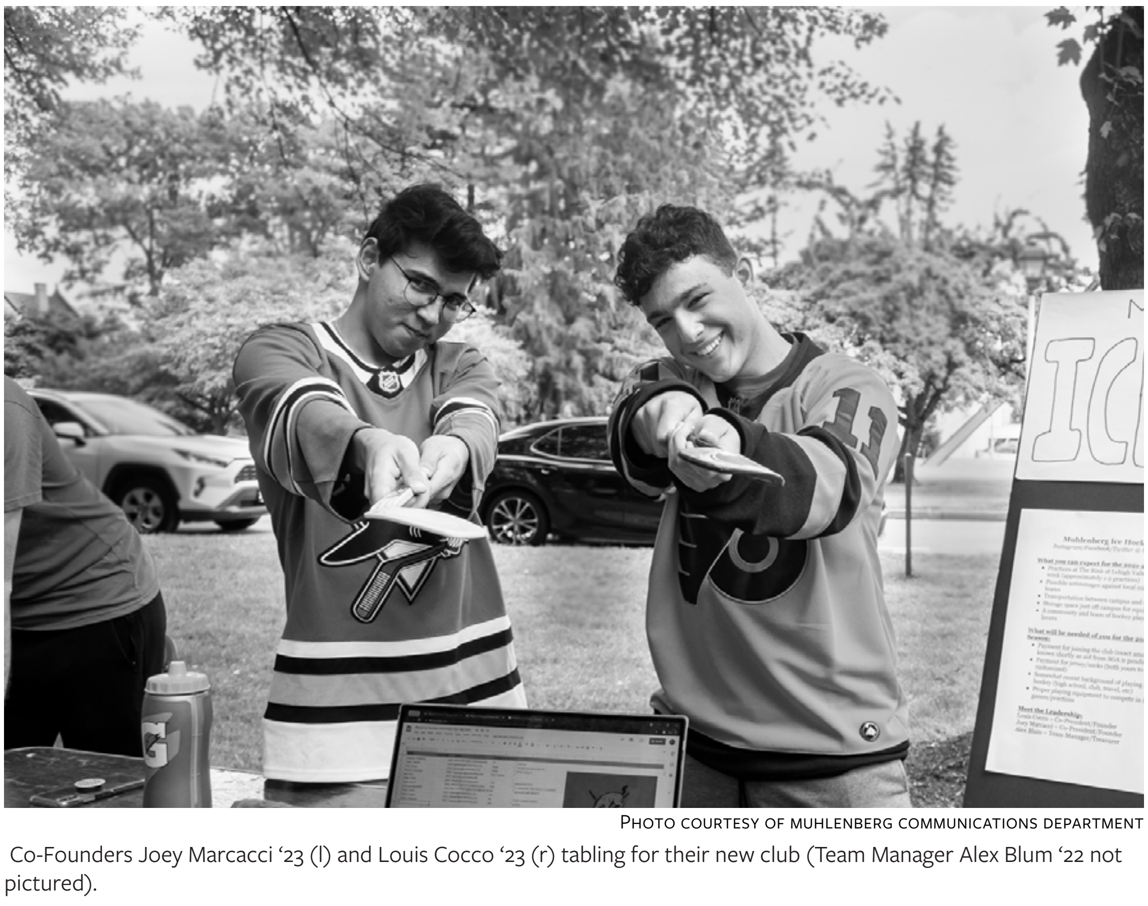


Photo courtesy of muhlenberg communications department

Co-Founders Joey Marcacci '23 (l) and Louis Cocco '23 (r) tabling for their new club (Team Manager Alex Blum '22 not pictured).

GAME, SET, MATCH!

With new coach David DeLasCasas Kurvink in position, Muhlenberg tennis is poised for great

By Noah Berger
Contributing writer

David DeLasCasas Kurvink was just named the head coach for men's and women's tennis at Muhlenberg College. However, Muhlenberg is not his first stop in the Lehigh Valley. DeLasCasas Kurvink was a 2003 graduate of Moravian College. As a player, DeLasCasas Kurvink had a 50-17 record, while receiving all-conference honors all four years.

Previously, he was the men and women's head coach at nearby DeSales University. While at DeSales, DeLasCasas Kurvink led the teams to a combined 99-48 record, with both teams having great success in the playoffs for multiple years while he was at the helm.

The women's team qualified for the MAC Freedom Playoffs in all four years of his tenure, and advanced to the championship match in 2017 and 2019. On the other side, the men's team coached by DeLasCasas Kurvink advanced to the playoffs every season as well. Before the coach's arrival, the men's team at DeSales had only one playoff appearance.

DeLasCasas Kurvink's previous success shows that he is willing and poised to take on this new opportunity with the Mules. Last season, the Muhlenberg men's and women's team did not have as much success as they would have liked. In the spring, the men's team finished 4-4, while the women went 1-6. However, the team and their new coach are up for the challenge to ensure Muhlenberg tennis continues to trend in the upward direction.

DeLasCasas Kurvink is ready for this new opportunity as the head tennis coach at Muhlenberg. "The Muhlenberg community has been very supportive, and I was able to jump right in and get to work. We are excited about the renovations on the tennis courts and look forward to using them in the spring. I also plan to engage the Muhlenberg community with some great family tennis programs to expand the outreach of our teams," said DeLasCasas Kurvink.

By creating an emphasis on community outreach and engagement, DeLasCasas Kurvink is dedicated to not only bringing the tennis community, but also the greater Muhlenberg community, together.

Despite the women's team only being scheduled for two games this season, DeLasCasas Kurvink is still hopeful for the season to come. "It is an exciting time for Muhlenberg tennis," he said.

DeLasCasas Kurvink noted there is also room for improvement. "I walked into a situation where both teams were down in numbers, but we were able to pull some students from the community and it looks promising that we will be able to compete with both teams. Both teams are still looking for strong players," DeLasCasas Kurvink said.

In terms of roster size, DeLasCasas Kurvink continues to be dedicated to making the team as formidable as it can be. With the priority on the greater community and finding players within Muhlenberg, DeLasCasas Kurvink is doing everything so that both tennis teams are set up for a strong season.

"It is exciting coaching both the men's and women's teams. It gives each program the opportunity to be a single program or become part of a larger team when both teams are combined supporting each other. This is not my first time rebuilding a program and I am up for the challenge," said DeLasCasas Kurvink.

DeLasCasas Kurvink is not doing all of this by himself, however. "This is the first time that both programs have a full-time coach, there are so many variables that go into a successful program and this will allow the program to grow. We were also able to hire a solid assistant coach, Amadou Diop, who has an honorary degree from Muhlenberg."

With DeLasCasas Kurvink now at the helm, many of 'Berg's tennis stars are pumped to get the season underway. "We are really excited to have a coach this year. From our courts getting redone to our daily practices, we are looking forward to our upcoming season," said Rose Glantz ‘22.

Photo courtesy of muhlenberg communications department

Muhlenberg's new Tennis Coach David DeLasCasas Kurvink is excited to work with the team.

FROM **FOOTBALL** PAGE 12

Muhlenberg community cheers on football team as they open with decisive victory.

ing some big questions unanswered this season.

However, one major returner is the Mules' signal-caller Michael Hnatkowsky ‘21, who made the decision to return for one last season. "Being able to play football again was an awesome experience. With all the uncertainty over the past 18 months, there was thought that a lot of us would not be playing football here again. Saturday was a great example of why I decided to come back," Hnatkowsky said.

Fellow teammate, Ethan Brader ‘23, has also had a lot of time to reflect during the absence from playing football.

"It's been a long time since I last suited up because of COVID, and it has had a big impact on me in the last year and a half… I was able to coach high school football with my dad and help coach a championship team, as well [as] work on myself and work out to be ready for when we get back to playing football at Muhlenberg," Brader said.

The Mules produced a strong opening season performance both offensively and defensively versus The College of New Jersey Lions. The offense tallied up 41 points, alongside a defense that held the Lions scoreless throughout the contest resulting in a 41-0 victory.

Brader cites this victory as a good momentum builder heading towards Centennial Conference play. "Dominating TCNJ was huge for us and a good start to the season. Going into Dickinson we have to keep a mindset that it's the most important game because it is the next game." Brader said, "We are excited to play Dickinson as it is the next step on our championship climb."

Another great show was the countless amount of fans in attendance at the game. The student section boasted a swarm of football-deprived fans. Dylan De Magistris ‘24 described his first ‘Berg football game saying, "I loved it… Since we weren't allowed to go the last two semesters, this is the first time I've been at a Muhlenberg sporting event, and [to] come together as a class and participate, I was very hyped." The diverse backgrounds of community members in attendance was something that De Magistris also noted, "People at Muhlenberg actually do care about the community. Not everybody is friends with people on the football team, but still they're coming out to support the team and athletics, which I think is awesome being on the track team as well."

Grace Oddo ‘22, like many other upperclassmen, is more than thrilled to cheer in the stands again, "It's the year of last. So I woke up today knowing that I need to go to my last Muhlenberg home opener."

For Hnatkowsky, seeing students, family and community members in the stands is relieving. "Having fans back was awesome. It felt like we were back to some normalcy prior to COVID. I think it really helps our guys when there are fans and last Saturday [Sept. 4] was an awesome game day experience." A win like this was also vital to give the new contributing players some needed experience and confidence heading into a grueling Centennial Conference play, "Every team is very talented and we will be tested every week. I think for our younger guys they will continue to get better every week during practice and in the film room. I am very excited for this weekend and ready to get started in conference play," Hnatkowsky added.

Then, last Saturday, Sept. 11, the Mules traveled to Carlisle to face the Dickinson College Red Devils. After another solid victory 34-13, the Mules move to 2-0 and prepare for home play this Saturday, Sept. 18, against the Ursinus College Bears.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Scotty Wood packed for football

By Tom Hiller
ASST SPORTS EDITOR

Photo by Louis Cocco '23

Quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky (#18), protected by Jack Kinerney (#64), Joshua Daugherty (#76), and Bobby Burke (#65), throws a long touchdown pass for the Mules' second score of the game.

Before the home opening game, Sept. 4, the last time the Muhlenberg football team took the field facing an intercollegiate opponent was the semi-final game, against the North Central College Cardinals, on Dec. 14th, 2019. The Mules went into the game boasting an impressive playoff run, going 3-0 and outscoring their opponents 104-8, until, unfortunately, coming up short against the eventual DIII National Champion Cardinals, 45-14. Between then and this current fall semester, there was one global pandemic, one canceled fall season and one football team anxious to compete again.

The 2021 football team is much different than its 2019 counterpart. Many of the key contributing players on both sides of the ball from the previous team have graduated, leav-

See **Football** page 11

Photo by Joe Romano '23

Megan Ray '22 leaps for a slam during the 2019-2020 season.

Buttermaker Tournament roundup

By Jordan Fischer
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In what was a successful tournament, the Muhlenberg volleyball team (5-3) went 3-1 over two days. With COVID-19 limiting all sports over the past year, the team was finally able to have their tournament experience.

"This tournament experience is so valuable for not only our first-year players but our sophomores as well because we were only able to play two exhibition games last year," said second-year head coach Rob McVicker. "The tournament format provides the ability to face a variety of opponents and grow as individuals and as a team."

The Buttermaker tournament will go a long way in helping not only new arrivals to the team, but those who have missed being on the court. "It was difficult for me to miss our season last year because volleyball has a tremendous impact on my physical and mental health, so I am extremely grateful to be back in the gym with the team," said Emma Eglinton '23.

Alyssa Faville '24, like many of her teammates, is relieved to be able to have practices back. "Since there were so many restrictions because of COVID last season we were unable to have a

see **Butter** page 10

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
September. 17 - September. 18

Men's Sport
Muhlenberg
vs
Mainline Invitational
Fri, Sept 17 @
Haverford, PA

Volleyball
Muhlenberg
vs
Rutgers-Newark
Sat, Sept 18 @ 11:00 a.m.
Allentown, PA

Football
Muhlenberg
vs
Ursinus College
Sat 18 @ 1:00 p.m.
Allentown, PA

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg
vs
McDaniel college
Sat, 18 @ 4:00 p.m.
Westminster, MD

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
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Does D-Hall have a recipe for success?

PHOTO BY AYDEN LEVINE '23

By Grace Oddo
Staff Writer

In the corner of his office by the door, Dining Services Manager John Pasquarello has a glass display case of autographed baseballs. Upon first glance, it can be assumed that the signatures belong to his favorite players on the Philadelphia Phillies, his beloved team. But upon further inquiry, Pasquarello explains that they are actually signatures of his Muhlenberg Dining Services employees. "I'm very proud to lead this team," he says candidly. "Everyone is doing such a great job."

Pasquarello and his team noticed a problem in early July—right around the time that Sodexo (Muhlenberg's dining services partner) made their annual hiring push. The applicant pool was unusually dry, and the hiring fair held over the summer received only a small turnout.

The labor and supply chain shortages are not unique to schools in the Lehigh Valley. All around the country, retail and food service industries are experiencing the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, some of those jobs—dishwashers, line cooks and shelf-stockers—require constant interaction with the general public. As the world continues to battle an invisible enemy, workers who once felt safe doing those jobs no longer do so.

Although the management team was able to raise wages by 12 percent this summer, these factors still have had a detrimental effect on Muhlenberg Dining Services' workforce. Pre-pandemic, there were between 180-190 employees between the Wood Dining Commons, General's Quarters, Java Joe and the LSC Cafe. Now, they're struggling to meet 140.

As a result, the Dining Services team made adjustments to their hours and services. Although the Wood Dining Commons remains open for its usual 7 a.m.-8 p.m. schedule, not all of the stations do. The Noshery North and South alternate days; the Chew Street Deli only has pre-made options; Mangia Mangia, which normally serves pizza and pasta daily, is now closed on the weekends. Additionally, Chef's Table no longer has unique options and operates as a self-serve station for Magellan's. The Muhlenber waffle maker has also disappeared. Moreover, the staff's hours and work schedules have been stretched; since Dining Services opened again in August, they have averaged about 300 hours of overtime.

The modifications have been noticed by the Muhlenberg student body, especially the upperclassmen who are used to what Pasquarello describes as the "pre-pandemic standard."

"We've experienced it at its best, but that's just not what it feels like right now," says Zach Rabishaw '22.

And for people with dietary restrictions, the limited options add another layer of frustration. Jake Watzman '22, who is a vegetarian, is annoyed with the lack of meatless options. "The two nosheries are really what allow people with dietary restrictions to get full meals," he says. "With only one of those open, there are people who come in and literally can't do anything."

Ayden Levine '23 concurs, noting that "As someone with dietary restrictions, I have even less options to eat in the dining hall now that there are fewer stations open. There always has been an issue with getting food for myself, but this semester, with the worker shortage, it's just that much harder. Yesterday, for example, the only thing listed gluten free in the entire dining hall was cauliflower. It's

See **D-Hall** page 4

Confronting the past and striving for a more equitable future

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

On Sept. 13, College President Kathleen Harring issued a statement regarding a past incident of racial insensitivity. Specifically, a 2010 Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre production of "The Mikado" was brought to the attention of the administration. The theatrical performance, set in Japan, outfitted some of its actors in yellowface. Yellowface is the practice of using makeup to mimic the appearance of a person of East Asian descent. These incidents came to light after a 'Berg alumnus reached out to the Asian Student Association, who in turn presented the information to the president and various administrators.

In addition to the offensive on-stage practices, a video filmed during the rehearsal process of the show by a student was also brought to the fore. "The backstage video had turned up on social media and served to spur the outreach about "The Mikado" and the impact it had," according to Harring. "The video displayed overtly racist behaviors and was posted on an individual's personal social media." However, the owner has since removed the video from their profile.

> "...We know we have much more work to do...."

Harring emphasized in her email to the student body that "The video of past student behavior coupled with the production of "The Mikado" are important reminders that we must be diligent in considering the selection of works we offer in our community and must consider the ways they may influence or give rise to overt and implicit bias actions by community members."

In a statement from the president's office to The Weekly, several statistics highlighting the College's push to incorporate diverse perspectives were included. The office expressed that "This year 48 percent of the full-time faculty hired by the College are from underrepresented communities and our incoming first-year class is just over 23 percent students of color—the most we have seen at the College."

The President's Diversity Advisory Council (PDAC) will also be assessing efforts and initiatives that are already underway. Their review of the diversity and equity initiatives' progress will be released toward the end of October. According to the president's office, "This report will provide much more detail on the work we have done to date."

See **Confronting** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Sports Editor
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Asst. Sports Editor
Ayden Levine
Photo Editor

Sara Vigneri
Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

09/13/2021
Brown Hall: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Off Campus Location: Report to transport student to hospital, Student Health Services notified.

09/15/2021
Seegers Union Loading Dock: Report of motor vehicle accident causing damage to right side of truck.
New Science Building: Report of vandalism to door closure, no suspects at this time.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of fire alarm from steam shower, system silenced and reset.
Seegers Union: Report of harassment, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Benfer Hall: Report of sick student, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

09/16/2021
Scotty Wood Stadium-Marino Field: Report of assault, theft, and trespassing, Allentown Police Department also responded and placed individuals in custody, investigation to continue.
Village Lower Lot: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

09/17/2021
On Campus Location: Report of harassment, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

09/18/2021
Benfer Hall: Report of noise complaint, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of hit and run causing damage to parked vehicle and property damage to yards in the 2100 block of Chew St, Allentown Police notified, no suspects at this time.
Walz/Brown (North) Parking Lot: Report of damage found to padlock, no suspects at this time.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of harassment, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

09/19/2021
N. 22nd Street: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Parents Plaza: Report of suspicious person, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Scotty Wood Stadium-Marino Field: Report of theft of banner, no suspects at this time.
Seegers Union: Report of harassment, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

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From **Confronting** page 1

Muhlenberg's theatre and dance department addressed their particular commitment to lifting up marginalized voices in their work.

They stated that their "practices concerning casting, production design and show selection have evolved significantly and purposefully in recent years to more thoughtfully consider the experience of communities of color, both as performers and audience."

More specifically, James Peck, Ph.D, the chair of the theatre department shared his thoughts on the issues at hand. He emphasized that "On many registers, the theatre program is striving for a more inclusive culture."

This is particularly evident in the department's upcoming season of theatrical shows, all of which choose to spotlight underrepresented communities, including LGBTQ+ and Latinx people.

Peck reiterated this sentiment saying, "We are aiming to offer productions by and about people of diverse social identities, and to cast and stage them in ways that demonstrate respect both for the communities represented and for the performers involved. This was a core principle of the season selection process this year, and I am confident it will remain so in the future."

In addition to the diverse season, a panel—organized by Visiting Assistant Professor Ethan Philbrick—will be held focusing on the unfortunate history and legacy of yellowface in the theatrical realm. While the exact details of the event are not confirmed, Peck stated that it "will feature several preeminent Asian American scholars that will gather on Zoom in the next few weeks."

The president expressed gratitude towards the students that brought these occurrences to light and aided the College in its efforts to become increasingly equitable. Harring noted, "The courage of students, then and now, who speak up about injustice has made us a better community. And yet, we know we have much more work to do to fully realize the ideals of equity and inclusion for all members of the Muhlenberg community. We must remain committed to this collective effort as we begin a new academic year."

DOROTHY AND DEXTER BAKER
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Photo by Megan Bruhn '24

'Berg hosts alumni weekend

Photo from @MuhlenbergCollegeAlumni on Facebook

Alumni gather outside of the Life Sports Center for a tailagate before the football game.

By Matthew Baresh
Contributing Editor

Former students from far and wide returned to Allentown this past weekend, Sept. 17-19, for Muhlenberg's Alumni Weekend. Muhlenberg College has an extensive network of alumni that still remain involved in the school. Whether through attending Alumni Weekend, working as staff members or using the Career Center to navigate the workforce, the College's graduates continue to be intertwined in the school's network.

The weekend kicked off with a 50th reunion campus tour and brunch for the class of 1961, allowing time for old friends to reconnect while reminiscing on their time at Muhlenberg.

"Seeing our old classmates had to be the best part of it," said Nancy Johns '61, one of the 60 women in the first class of female students to attend the College.

"We even had a nice luncheon and loved seeing our old friends," added Dolores Gleneden '61.

This nostalgic tour was coupled with a reunion lunch held on campus that was followed by an alumni golf outing. Sponsored by the Muhlenberg athletics department, the event allowed golf players to golf alongside their old teammates.

This specific alumni weekend would not have been possible without the help of the Cardinal Key Society, a group of students in charge of all alumni events and involvement.

Meanwhile, President Harring gave her State of the College presentation where she discussed updates to the College and plans for the upcoming years. This presentation was the perfect opportunity for alumni to stay in the loop with the school and its upcoming advancements.

Saturday morning commenced with a bird watching expedition led by Daniel Klem, Ph. D., , a Muhlenberg biology professor. Following the biology theme, Marten Edwards, Ph. D., biology department chair and professor, held a bug discovery walk with the alumni to connect with nature in Allentown.

A large homecoming fair was held on Muhenberg's front lawn and in Parent's Plaza, containing many activities for alumni to enjoy. Inflatable obstacle courses, a petting zoo, free Muhlenberg merchandise and an assortment of food kept the former students entertained until the tailgating event held before the football game.

During the tailgate, the lawn bordering the Life Sports Center was buzzing with alumni reconnecting, enjoying the weather and cooking hamburgers and hotdogs. Shortly afterward, the Muhlenberg vs. Ursinus football game kicked off with a large audience containing both current and former students. Although the Mules lost by a small margin, the alumni were thrilled to support the sports teams and be a part of the electrifying crowd.

The night was full of life with an alumni art exhibition to showcase the artwork created by the former classmates. An alumni cabaret featuring well-known alum Frankie Grande '06 concluded Saturday's events to commemorate the careers of recently retired theatre professors Curtis Dretsch and Charlie Richter.

An additional event was held Sunday morning, where members of the Muhlenberg's Hall of Fame for Athletics joined together for a brunch in celebration of their achievements.

Bob Keller '21 said, "The best part about Muhlenberg was the staff... I was sometimes in classes with four people so the individual attention is what sticks out to me the most."

"We ultimately are there to ensure events run smoothly and assist those in charge," said Melissa Borker '22, president of the Cardinal Key Society. "As a Key, I have been able to foster relationships with alumni during this weekend and ensure their return to campus is one they won't forget."

New library exhibit sheds light on HIV/AIDS history

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

Photo by Keanna Pena '25

The Lehigh Valley community's response to the AIDS epidemic.

Almost 40 years since the AIDS epidemic swept the United States, Susan Falciani Maldonado, Muhlenberg's special collections and archives librarian, and the library team compiled an exhibit in the Trexler Library Rare Books Room called "HIV and AIDS Activism and Advocacy in the Lehigh Valley."

Walking into the room feels almost like stepping into a page of history. The exhibit features artifacts, articles, pictures, memorabilia and a link to provide online access to students or staff who may not be able to attend in person. The caption cards surrounding different artifacts offer detailed information about the pieces presented and their significance.

It is a simple exhibit that is able to capture something unique and historical. Yet viewing the stories written by students in that era feels familiar. Hearing students' voices from 40 years ago come together to unite and persevere despite a time of loss and confusion is both too familiar and simultaneously uplifting.

The first caption on display describes recent discussions with the Lehigh Valley LGBT Community Archive at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center surrounding HIV/AIDS and COVID-19. The conversations centered around comparing the AIDS epidemic to the country's current attitude toward the COVID-19 pandemic. Lehigh Valley community member Mitch Hemphill emphasized this, saying in one of the displays, "I say that the knowledge wasn't there in the beginning and then it was a bit sketchy as we did get it. And a lot of us still carried on, thinking this won't affect me."

The exhibit displays the fear and hatred that the stigma surrounding the AIDS epidemic was directly rooted in. Fear and hatred of a disease no one understood resulted in discrimination and stereotypes that still affect the LGBTQ+ community today.

For instance, no less than three weeks ago, acclaimed rapper DaBaby stated in a live concert that "[if] you didn't show up today with HIV, AIDS, any of them deadly sexually transmitted diseases that'll make you die in two or three weeks, put your cellphone light in the air." This demonstrates that stigmatizing and stereotyping a marginalized community enables the spread of misinformation and judgment that can span weeks, decades and centuries.

> **"...I knew that what I was looking at was important."**

Reflecting on the stigmas that have followed the LGBTQ+ community to the present day is important and necessary. The exhibit that is being showcased right now would have been pertinent regardless of when it was displayed. However, choosing to present it now is relevant for a multitude of reasons.

"HIV and AIDS Activism and Advocacy in the Lehigh Valley" is an exhibit that encourages the Muhlenberg community to look inward. To seek community in a time of darkness is difficult and can feel impossible. However, being given the opportunity to see ourselves mirrored in students from 40 years ago offers an insight many did not know existed.

"I really loved the HIV/AIDS display. As soon as I walked into the room, I knew that what I was looking at was important. All of the passages and pictures on display showed that the Allentown community was active in its support for proper research and information on this disease, which was really great to see," said Keanna Pena '25, who visited the exhibit upon its opening.

It allows the community to reflect on the similarities and differences between the past and present. The push for social justice, the constant spread of misinformation, the stigmas mirrored today with marginalized communities and COVID-19 and the feeling of being lonely while sharing experiences together.

Looking back and learning through the "HIV and AIDS Activism and Advocacy in the Lehigh Valley" display in the Trexler Library may seem like a small thing. But to many students, staff members, and community members, this exhibit is an important reminder and memorialization of a lost generation.

From **D-Hall** page 1

just frustrating to not know if I'll get food every time I walk into the dining hall."

"None of the things that make the dining hall a number one dining hall in Pennsylvania are being offered and then it's just a whole mess with that. So, it feels very disingenuous sometimes, especially that the college kind of just constantly boasts about that," notes Jaxson Goldsmith '23. He added, "It's kind of frustrating cause some of the things I really like are not offered but then I also feel for the fact that Sodexo is just really in the weeds right now."

Shelly Zaid-Kunz '22 agrees. "I feel bad for the students who are paying so much money and then walking in and not getting enough food or not eating enough," she states. "And then I feel bad for the workers who are not paid enough and working way too long of hours and also knowing that they're doing the best that they can."

This empathy for staff is not expressed in all of the student body—which some students say is a shame. "I wish there was a little more understanding in the student population about that instead of really jumping into 'Oh, the dining hall options are terrible,'" says Maereg Gebretekle '22. "Yes they are, but also dig deep and see what's going on and try to care for the community because the Sodexo workers, the dining hall workers, are part of the community."

Despite obstacles, the staff are attempting to keep their heads held high. "Out of all the places I've worked, Muhlenberg College has been my favorite," says D'Angelo, who works at the Wildfire Grill. "People here are so respectful."

"I really do enjoy working here," adds Lois Zielinsky, a server who has worked for Dining Services for 13 years. "Once you don't like what you do, you may as well quit. And I'm not there yet!"

In the meantime, Pasquarello and the rest of the management team are working on ways to ease the burdens placed on the overworked staff. For current Muhlenberg students, there are several work study positions open on HandShake. "If there are students out there that are looking for work, we encourage them to come speak with us," says Pasquarello.

Pasquarello is optimistic that things will get back to normal soon. The one thing that is never changing, he says, is the constant communication with the Muhlenberg community. "We listen to our guests. When things get back to normal, we're going to rely on the feedback from our students. But in the meantime, we continue to pivot."

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>
> \- Bette Midler

Alumni from far and wide come together to celebrate the careers of ′Berg Theatre & Dance legends

Photo by Emma Bram ′24

Muhlenberg theatre alumni performed a farewell show to honor the retirements of Charlie Richter and Curtis Dretsch.

By Danny Milkis
Arts and Culture Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 18, some big names and powerful voices came together to celebrate the retirement of two foundational figures of the Muhlenberg theatre & dance community: Charles Richter and Curtis Dretsch, recently retired professors of theatre.

The sheer presence and production value of the presentation was spellbinding, and can be attributed to the work of producers Dana Ianuzzi ‘03 and Robert Grobman ‘99, choreographer Bree Delgado ‘03, musical director Justin Brehm ‘05 and scenic designer Darren Mechiore ‘00. The performance also featured live instrumental music and a variety of golden age musical theatre favorites.

The lights went up, and the audience of current students, faculty and alumni were instantly greeted with the friendly faces of hosts Ruben Ortiz ‘00 and Mia Scarpa ‘04, as the full company began a rousing rendition of “Comedy Tonight,” from the musical “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” Ortiz explained that “Tonight we celebrate two men who built an award-winning theatre program from the ground up, and allowed us to grow into the actors and theatremakers and people that we are today.”

The company exited stage left, and a packed night of music kicked off with vignettes of Richter’s favorite showtunes, including selections from “Carousel,” “Cabaret” and “The Sound of Music.” This segment included a performance of “What Good Would the Moon Be” by adjunct professor of voice Lauren Madigan ‘96.

Between musical numbers, the program featured heartfelt speeches from people in the Muhlenberg community with whom Richter and Dretsch had an especially close relationship. Dance professor Karen Dearborn, assistant technical director Eric Covell and director of operations and production Jess Bien all spoke throughout the program on behalf of the growth and experiences they have received after working alongside Dretsch and Richter.

> **″I′m not sure if many people know this, but Dretsch was a long-time supporter of the choral program.″**
> **Chris Jackson**

“[Richter]’s office was this sanctuary … I knew I could always go there,” said Frankie Grande ‘06, after a rousing solo performance of “My Town.” “I wouldn’t be the performer I am today without the guidance of these two amazing men.”

As the night progressed, the company of alumni performers were joined onstage by members of the Muhlenberg chamber choir. The choir accompanied the singers in a multitude of musical theatre ensemble songs, with everything from uptempo character pieces such as “Ya Got Trouble” from “The Music Man” and “I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General” from “The Pirates of Penzance,” to sincere, solemn ballads like “Sabbath Prayer” from “Fiddler on the Roof.”

“I’m not sure if many people know this, but [Dretsch] was a long-time supporter of the choral program,” stated Chris Jackson, director of choral and vocal studies, in a pre-show address. Jackson included the acclaimed “Gaudeamus Igitur” melody in the program for the night because the piece was the inspiration for the school’s alma mater, as a tribute to Dretsch’s devotion to the music department and to the survival of musical ensembles through the years.

Grande and other alumni performers interacted with the current students in the chamber choir, starting conversations and taking selfies backstage, as well as after the show.

“A shirtless Frankie Grande took me by the shoulder and had a mid-life crisis,” said Joshua Myers ‘22, an active member of the chamber choir. “I was uplifted.″

"Sanctorum" commands the stage

By Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor

The weekend of Sept. 17 an operetta entitled "Sanctorum" premiered. It was written and directed by Danny Milkis '23. The piece, produced by REM Collective, focuses on the historical drama of Cleopatra, Mark Antony and Julius Caesar.

"Sanctorum" is a masterful, rich operetta with an emotive cast and even more passionate melodies that are reminiscent of more modern opera pieces today (like "Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812") .

Santorum focuses on the beginning affair between Cleopatra and Mark Antony, and the political background behind it. The political tension between all of the characters is shown through the sinister and evocative music, building up until the final number of Act I.

The show first opens with the cast of characters in simple, black cloaks. They perform the opening number with a haunting range of melodies. Although the scene is quite simplistic, it is the characters and the music that make the show.

Cleopatra, played by Celeste Samson '22, was depicted as fierce and independent. Their solo song, "Andromeda," examines the thought that only they can save themself. The song premiered as a sneak peek for the second act. Samson's soft-spoken, but melodic voice works well for such a graceful and regal character.

Samson plays well with their lover, Mark Antony, played by Lorenzo Antigua '24, whose loud tenor sweeps the stage. Antigua successfully captures the range of emotions his character plays.

Zach Rabishaw's '22 Augustus commanded the stage with a beautiful, evocative voice. As Rabishaw sang, he caught the audience with an icy, powerful stare as the character should. His counterpart, Lepidus (played by Andrew Gordon '23) was played with a particular charm.

As Lepidus appeared in one scene, the entire audience cheered for him. His sister, Octavia, played by visiting artist Jenny Delorimier, had the same level of charisma. Delorimier's sweet soprano voice delicately enraptured the audience with her grace and poise.

Enobarbus, played by Elaina Ragusa '23, also has great chemistry with the rest of the ensemble. Ragusa's voice and acting makes her character come to life, particularly as she played off of Lepidus's charm.

The operetta took place in Trexler Amphitheater, an intimate setting for such a rich and personal piece. The 10 p.m. performance offered a romantic atmosphere, as the haunting melodies clashed with the night-time appeal.

Photo by Jenny Delorimier, REM Collective

Performers of "Sanctorum" sing at the 10pm debut, on September 17th, 2021.

One character sings, "Will you love me when I'm gone?" The rest of the ensemble echoes this in a powerful refrain.

Although it was hard to hear some of the actors at times, the emotion was still conveyed. It was also conveyed through the heavy instrumentals (composed and recorded by Will Howitt '23 and Milkis), in which the tension of the plot was aided by the orchestrations.

Despite the simplistic nature of the piece, "Sanctorum" shows what happens when a group of young artists come together with creativity and ambition. From the process of writing and workshopping, to actually performing the piece with vocal and instrumental arrangements, this complex piece of art succeeds from such a collaborative effort.

"I thought it was very inventive how the ensemble was also the leads and a cloak was used to identify if they were villagers or not villagers," said audience member Justin Walker '25.

Sanctorum is defined as the "Holiest of Holies," and in the sense of theatre, it is definitely a holy, ethereal piece.

A cappella community finally expands after an audition-less year

By Danny Milkis
A&C Editor

Over the past two weeks, the Baker Center for the Arts has been bustling with eager vocalists, audition cuts in hand, waiting for one of six opportunities to be accepted into a like-minded community of artists and friends.

It is no secret that the a cappella community is a massive force at Muhlenberg College, and the six individual organizations take part in numerous musical and social events across campus over the course of any given academic year. Some favorites include 'Berg's Got Talent in the fall, as well as multiple cabarets and themed performances throughout the semester.

Each of the groups also has its own unique theme, which provides structure for repertoire and performance details. The Dynamics, Muhlenberg's oldest a cappella group, focuses exclusively on mainstream and alternative pop music. Acafellas is comprised of male-identifying and nonbinary members and CODA is comprised of non-cis-male-identifying members, and there is also a heavy pop influence in both groups' music styles.

At long last, the callback list was released to the public by a cappella council president Zach Rabishaw '22.

"Thank you all SO much for coming out to auditions this semester, we had so much fun getting to hear you all sing," stated Rabishaw, in an email to all of the groups and auditioners. "If you don't see your name on these lists, please don't be discouraged! Many people audition multiple times before they get into a group, and we'd all love to hear you again. A no right now does not mean a no forever."

"I feel so loved and can't wait to make music with such amazing people!"

Each group ended up accepting between five and eight new members, following a period of deliberation between the executives. Many of the groups held their first rehearsals on Monday night, Sept. 20.

"The amount of genuine laughter we had in the matter of one night warms my heart," says Elaina Ragusa '23, a new member of the Chaimonics. "I feel so loved and can't wait to make music with such amazing people!"

"I'll be honest, going to the first rehearsal was a little intimidating," explained Sandy McInerney '23, a new member of the Acafellas. "But once I got there I knew I had nothing to worry about. The first rehearsal just made me more excited for the rest of the semester."

Now that Muhlenberg has adopted a singing policy— vaccinated people may sing indoors with masks and without masks during performances— there has been a return to a degree of normalcy. In accordance with the established policies, groups have the ability to run their rehearsals in the same spaces and with the same acoustics as they had prior to the March 2020 shutdown.

"It's definitely a breath of fresh air. There's so much excitement in the room over having new members, especially considering how many there are," says Jake Watzman '22, member of Noteworthy. "The last time we took newbies was January 2020, so we're a very tight-knit, close community of people at this point. But we're definitely ready for it to expand!"

'Berg's own monsters take over Halloween Haunt

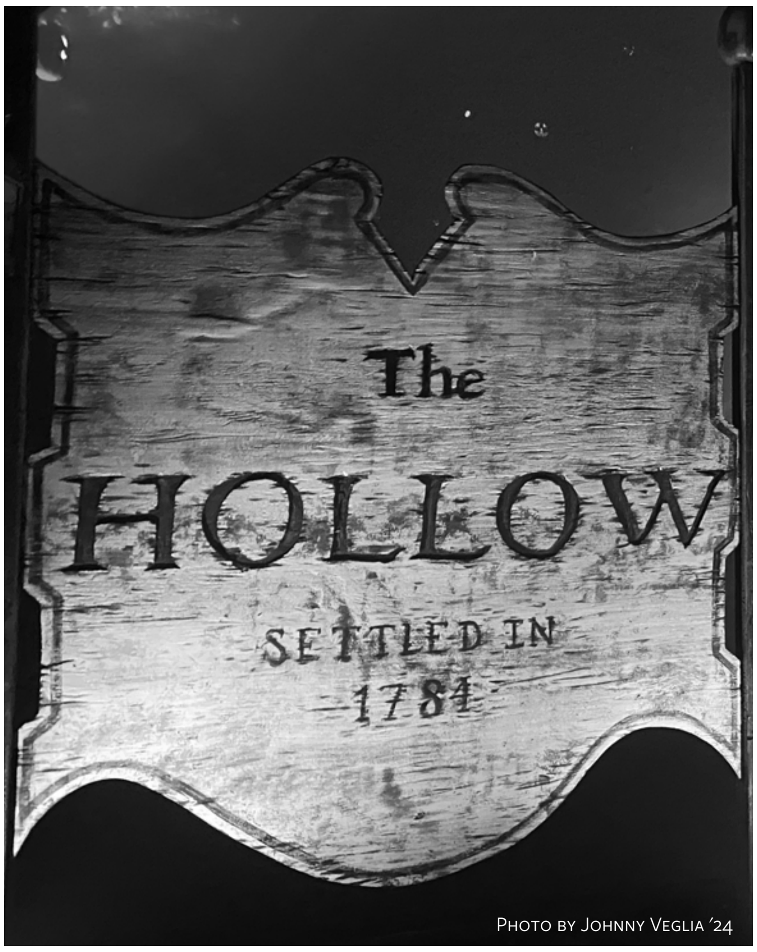


Photo by Johnny Veglia '24

By Johnny Veglia
Asst A&C Editor

The fall season is officially in full swing as Sept. 22 marked the first official day of autumn, and the scares and thrills of Halloween have already been unleashed. This past weekend marked the opening of Dorney Park's Halloween Haunt and the Great Pumpkin Fest, a proud return after being out-of-commission in 2020.

The event has returned with frightening experiences for guests and new opportunities for Muhlenberg students to unleash their inner creatures. The event includes scare zones, shows and haunted mazes to terrorize visitors while providing a fun time with 15 total attractions. This is in addition to the numerous rides at Dorney Park, from Hydra to Talon.

Halloween Haunt has welcomed in two brand new attractions for this year's season: The Hollow and Enigma. Enigma is a maze focused on optical illusions and hallucinations to confuse brave guests who walk through. The Hollow is a brand new scare zone and two Muhlenberg students currently reside within the haunted woods. The location may not have a descriptive or lengthy backstory, but the makeup, costumes and other elements help to bring the curse of pumpkins to life. The Hollow is focused on a town from the 18th century who have fallen under a wicked curse to turn the residents into pumpkins and the collectors chop off their heads to stop it from spreading.

Sophie Plaut '24 is a scare-actor in the area and dons a bonnet along with a pumpkin face to scare guests and to help tell the story of the area. Plaut says, "You're on your feet for about four hours straight, improvising and interacting with guests, often who are being rude."

Haunt requires scare-actors to be on their feet and be active to both perform and scare the guests, even when they are being unpleasant. The experience lasts from 7:00-11:00 p.m., but the monsters arrive early for the Overlord's Incantation at 6:45pm.

The guests may be a little rude and use offensive language, but that is a defense mechanism for these frightened visitors. If guests are barking in fear, the scare-actors must be doing something right.

Plaut is never offstage and only has one break, with no frequent pauses between visitors since she is in a wide space with a constant flow of guests. Scare zones require the performers to be fully engaged with their surroundings and be prepared.

Sarah Hansel '24 is also a performer in a scare zone with The Lair, a haunted area with various vampires in their coffins and tombs. Hansel was named the creature of the night for The Lair on Saturday, Sept. 18, and scared from a coffin and the throne of the vampires. The creature of the night title is given to one standout performer from each maze or scare zone for that night. Hansel said, "It's been great! I'm working in The Lair attraction which is all about vampires. It's been a super fun experience seeing the behind the scenes of something most people wouldn't always get to see."

The performers of Halloween Haunt get to discover the beauty and mystery of the event, from getting makeup done at The Crypt to training in the park with no other guests around. The performers also got to meet Tara Santa, the operations supervisor for all the design elements of Haunt, from hair and makeup to sets and props.

Kailani Reis '24 is another one of the scare-actors at Haunt and acts as a child for the Trick or Treat maze, a trail focused on witches requiring the youth and innocence of children to remain immortal.

The maze is located by Steel Force in the back of the park and has a brand new ending scene for this year's experience. "Some challenges for me were lack of direction. I really had to be my own boss and I wasn't really given anything to help me in my efforts to scare people. It was especially difficult during the opening ceremony because my character isn't traditionally scary out of [the context of] my [scare zone] and that made it difficult to stay in character and still be scary," said Reis. These students have to translate a traditional acting experience for an over four hour long improv experience.

For Reis, she has to figure out a way to scare people as a traumatized trick-or-treater, a challenge in comparison to strolling zombies and frightful clowns. The performers are able to utilize their Muhlenberg experience as theatre scholars to their advantage.

"It constantly keeps you on your toes. As a theatre major, it helps bend me out of my comfort zone. I would really recommend anyone looking for a shift in routine," Hansel stated. The process also allows for students to perform without having to compete for a spot in one of the productions this semester here at 'Berg. Instead of a singular stage experience, Dorney Park is now entirely their theatre.

The community of various actors allows for support and communication as it is a friendly group of performers who have all come together just to scare. "Only weirdos work at Haunt, and no one loves weirdos like other weirdos," said Plaut.

"I think the Haunt community that I have associated with is super kind and welcoming though some people, like at any job, are difficult and rude. The people I surround myself with are encouraging and want to help you succeed," Reis mentioned.

Halloween Haunt continues every Friday and Saturday night until Oct. 30, with an additional event on Sunday, Oct. 10.

A scare-actor playing Hecate, the Goddess of Witchcraft in Greek mythology, screamed during the Overlord's Incantation, "You can cry for help, you can try to fight, but I will have your souls by the end of the night. I wish you all the best of luck."

Photo by Johnny Veglia '24

Halloween Haunt runs every weekend until October 31st.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Inhabiting my Them

A fragment of my journey with gender

BY SYDNEY BARON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first notable landmark in my experience with gender was an Instagram post by a close friend of mine. Their Instagram story shared their pronouns and identity; “My name is Sylvia Fisher. I identify as non-binary and use they/them pronouns.″ I remember feeling a pang in my chest upon reading those words. A voice inside of me seemed to be shouting, ″Sylvia is free, and I am trapped. I am still in this cage.″

They start young, our associations with gender. I grew up loving pink, fairies, books, dirt, bugs, playdough and painting. The gifts I received and the items that capitalism said were for me were all branded with a certain color (pink) and a certain intention to keep people with vaginas in submissive societal roles. Growing up I assumed that outer space was an interest for boys and so was Minecraft and so were Legos. I took pride in the fact that I was great at lightsaber battles with my cousins, but I never had any Star Wars toys of my own. Nerf guns were only something that crossed my path when I was with the boys. The gendering of traits from such a young age has had a profound impact on my being. I am just now in my life, at 21 years old, realizing that I, in fact, DO love Legos and dinosaurs and space! Every day I have to be intentional about noting and breaking down the role of gender in the choices I make.

Gender is weird. The concepts of ″womanhood″ and ″manhood″ are weird. What does it even mean to be a woman? You don′t need to have a vagina to be a woman. There are plenty of trans women with penises. So then what is it?? Honestly, if you break it down, being a woman could mean absolutely anything. I like to think about what would happen if I changed nothing and just declared myself a man and watched as people around me writhed in confusion. I could do it! Because at the end of the day, being a man could mean whatever I want it to mean.

Bringing it back to the original point—I started experimenting with she/they pronouns after Sylvia came out. For a long time using she/they, I lived in this strange gray space. “She” pronouns didn′t really feel right. But “they” pronouns felt...alien? Far away? Scary???? Thus began the process of what I like to call ″inhabiting my them.″ For me, the transition to using only they/them pronouns marked a shift in the way I decided to be in the world. My pronouns are a declaration that I am the writer and owner of my own universe. I am the inventor, the curator, the artist. I will no longer accept the associations between myself and certain traits, activities, habits, likes, dislikes, ideas, etc. simply because of my ″″gender.″ I will make my own gender. They/them has no instructions, no owners manual and certainly no boxes.

I feel more free living this way. Some people don′t know what the hell to do with me because I′ve changed my pronouns and quite frankly, it has helped me to learn who belongs in my life and who doesn′t. Coming out as non-binary has made me feel like I can step into every space and relationship authentically in all my fullness.

This brief account by no means encapsulates the pain and struggle that has been present in my queer experience, nor can my words substitute for the experience of any other queer, non-binary or trans individual. I acknowledge that my whiteness, thinness and able-body play a large role in my ability to be safely and comfortably trans. I owe my liberation to fearless Black queer people past and present. I thank them for their light and love, and encourage you to donate to @blackwomenexhale on Venmo if you enjoyed reading my story.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Reflection on Home

BY ALISON RUTYNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Wow—it is so good to be back! Campus alive. Everywhere I look, I see old friendships rekindling and new friendships fostering. Classes are in-person. Residence halls are unmasked. Frisbees are being tossed on the quad. GQ is open past midnight. At last. For juniors, seniors, and super-seniors, the spirit on campus brings back memories of our pre-pandemic college experience, though the people we were then feel so distant to who we are now. For many sophomores and all our first-year students, the feeling on campus is new. Those who were here for when it was just first-years on campus are familiar with the campus in their own way, but for many the culture around them is still new.

Muhlenberg campus culture is fascinating. One of the first things you learn is you better watch how you act and what you say because everyone knows everyone. In many ways that pressure is positive—it keeps us on better behavior than at a larger school where you don’t have to pass that person you caught beef with on academic row the next day. Here, your reputation can make or break you. But Muhlenberg campus culture has overall always been friendly and close-knit in a way that many smaller schools aren’t. Upperclassmen are familiar with the holding doors tradition, and the holding-doors-even-when-the-person-is-a-little-too-far-away-so-they-have-to-awkwardly-run-to-catch-the-door-behind-you tradition. I had a couple of doors dropped right in my face the first week. I continue to get strange reactions sometimes from underclassmen when I hold the door for them. Hint: it isn’t a form of flirting here.

Perhaps door-holding is an unimportant custom, but for me it has always symbolized the acknowledgement of a unity within the student body; that despite being busy overachievers, we can all go out of our way to pause a few seconds at a doorway to pass it to the next person. The loss of Muhlenberg customs like door-holding and holding each other accountable for our actions represents a shift in campus culture. Campus culture, after all, is shaped primarily via small, daily student interactions. So maybe door holding isn’t a big deal. But holding each other accountable is. And without knowing one another, it is harder to hold one another accountable.

Campus culture means we decide what is acceptable behavior and what isn’t. Think of it as positive peer pressure—if you know you are expected to hold the door, to say hi to people even if you aren’t quite sure if you’ve met before as you pass them on campus, to be extra polite and grateful to our overworked dining hall staff—if the people around you lead by example, we all form a positive campus culture. Conversely, if we let our friends be rude and get away with it, if we judge people before we’ve met them, if we keep our circles small, if we make people feel uncomfortable and unsafe at parties, that becomes our campus culture, too.

The current Muhlenberg student body is unspokenly divided between pre-world-falling-apart-before-our-eyes and post-world-falling-apart-before-our-eyes college students. Both groups are desperately vying for normalcy, but neither knows what that entails and both know that nothing will ever be the way it was pre-pandemic—nor should it.

The pandemic brought to light the changes we want to make and need to make, and many of us are fueled with intense passion to get out there and start working toward that better future. But we also all have suffered collective trauma at a critical point in our young lives and we are searching for a quick fix, an instant recovery to something relatively familiar, so we can feel right, and move on from the calamity that was the past year and a half.

Underclassmen have so much to offer to this school, to breathe fresh air, new ideas, to start us on the changes that will progress this school to where we need to be. And upperclassmen, broken as we are, are ready to lead the way, to welcome everyone, whether it be for the first time in two years or the first time ever, to the home and the customs we have missed dearly for far too long.

Muhlenberg campus culture depends on us: the students. This semester we have the unique opportunity to build it up again, bridging the gap between pre-pandemic and post-pandemic students, and drawing on the vast variety of experiences that our student body has had while away from campus. We, the students, can choose to foster a healthier, kinder, safer, united campus culture that will help us all feel at home.

Apple Juice

by Hannah Shelly

honeycrisp orchard
alive
in a Faribault garden

fresh Fruit
under the PROUD
June sun

juicy drips
ooze from my
drenched hair

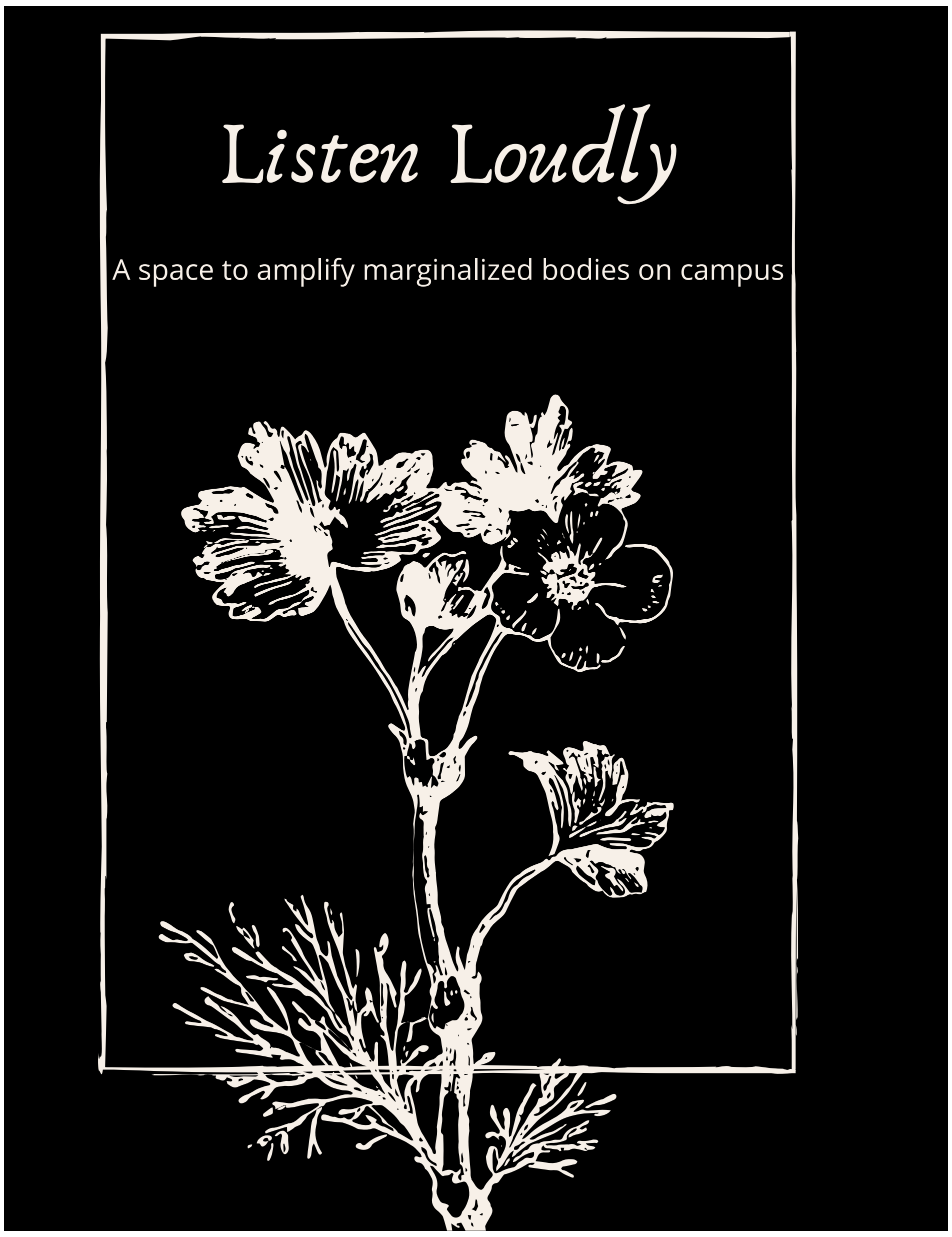
inking the
small of my
wrist

the Fruity fragrance
frees me on
the train tracks

i'm intoxicated
i've tasted
the honeycrisp

i desire
my own
orchard

grown of
a Faribault
seed


Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

To prolong a photograph

by Esther Oko

Smile:
Distress erased, lips stretching wide in sync
Painted is a blinding smile that masks an unpleasant countenance,
An approachable visage.
Surely, the next second will settle itself.
When the ensuing dread begins to settle in
And it becomes obvious that the next second is uncertain,
The smile falters.
The stranger, displaced, once the moment elapses–
The painted joy, effaced by the last shutter.
Done!

‘Berg fencing is pointing in a new direction

Returning from a long hiatus due to COVID, fencing is in position for success

The fencing team tabling for the Academic Fair.

Photo by Joe Romano ‘23 for the Office of Communications

By Alex Blum
Sports Section Editor

Despite the long hiatus from in-person activities, the Muhlenberg fencing club is still going strong. Deep in the bowels of Memorial Hall, the revamped team works on sharpening their skills during weekly held practices.

With the fall 2021 semester only just beginning and students still getting acclimated to their classes, turnout for the club’s Thursday evening practices from 5:00-6:30 p.m. has been inconsistent. Despite this, club president Noah Katz ‘23 remains optimistic that their weekly attendance will soon become stable. “We have had some meetings of up to 12 and some with far fewer. Once people get suited with their classes we will likely have a better estimate as to what attendance will look like for the semester,” said Katz.

In addition, Katz carries with him a similarly positive outlook when it comes to thinking about the upcoming year as a whole. “I am looking forward to having regular meetings with the team so that we can get to a level where any member can bout against any other member and feel confident while doing so,” he said.

The building of that confidence within each member of the team is vital, especially if they seek to participate in competitive tournaments like they were on the verge of doing prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. For Katz, staying in the moment and slowly reaching the point where everyone feels as though they are ready for this big stage is his main concern.

“Right before the College sent students home we were just about to reach out to other colleges and fencing groups in the area. Currently, our focus is to get everyone to a place where they feel comfortable competing in a tournament-like environment,” said Katz.

As with all sports, practice makes perfect, and sometimes that means sticking to the basics. Working with head coach Paul McAndrew in the early stages of the season, Katz is aware of how important it is to refine the fundamental techniques.

“Right now we are going through basic footwork, attacks, and parries with all members. Even for those who are experienced, you can never practice the basics too much,” Katz said.

McAndrew, who has been fencing since 1969, has provided the team with some of the physical tools to succeed in the sport. He has also shared with them some of his wisdom and insight from his years of experience.

“Paul often reminds us that the best defense in fencing is not any kind of fancy blade work, but to just simply step out of the range of your opponent’s blade. Paul also tells the new members that fencing is a sport you can keep with you for your entire life,” Katz said.

Offering the young team such support, encouragement and advice is a huge point of emphasis for McAndrew, especially during their practice time. “I often stop the action to advise, suggest or correct so the fencers can learn and improve,” said McAndrew.

Certainly, McAndrew has a wealth of experience and knowledge to pass on to Muhlenberg’s rising fencing stars. However, much like the many students at ‘Berg trying the sport for the first time, he was once a beginner himself.

“In the fall of 1969, as a freshman at Saint Peter’s College in Jersey City, NJ, I saw a notice that the fencing team was looking for members, no experience necessary. I had played high school football as a sub and, in a limited capacity, I ran track. I started attending practices and soon after the captain of the team announced we had a new coach: Csaba Elthes… [Elthes] was a demanding but tremendous coach and instilled the fundamentals of fencing in me and the enjoyment of a competitive sport,” McAndrew said.

With all that he learned from his first days of fencing at the age of 18 and four years of Division I competition, McAndrew served as an instructor in Sellersville, Pennsylvania for 25 years. This deep connection to the sport of fencing means that the team is in good hands.

Even though in his eyes formal competition may be a ways away, McAndrew is excited to bring on the fall semester, especially coming out of the pandemic. “We had a solid core group of fencers and interest was growing, as was the talent levels, when COVID hit us in March 2020 and we of course suspended everything. I am looking to this season and into the spring to bring awareness that the team exists, it’s open to all that are interested and, most importantly. experience isn’t needed,” he said.

While some might think that after such an extended hiatus of in-person clubs and sports practices that players would need to shed some serious rust, Katz shares that fencing has become second nature for him.

“Once you have been doing anything long enough it becomes impossible to forget. Fencing has become like that for me. After the first practice it all comes back,” he said.

To reach that instinctive nature with the sport and a whole lot more, McAndrew encourages those who may be even the slightest bit interested in fencing, come out and give it a shot.

“The potential is limited only by the students who come out. Fencing is the perfect sport: we wear gloves, we wear masks and if anyone gets within six feet we poke them to keep them away,” McAndrew said.

“Seriously, my experience in high school and college was an extracurricular activity or sport [which] always helped [with] my grades and overall experience. It gave me an outlet away from classwork, made my schedule tighter (meaning greater attention to the work I needed to get done) and it broadened my social network.”

Men’s soccer charges to a great start

Photo by Louis Cocco ‘23

Goaltender Zach Matik ‘24 ready to make a big stop on the opponent.

The men’s soccer team enters Centennial Conference play with a demanding 4-0-1 record

By Tom Hiller
Assistant Section Editor

The Muhlenberg men’s soccer team opened the fall season on Sept. 4, traveling up to Northeastern, Pennsylvania to face the University of Scranton Royals. They left Scranton with a 2-0 victory, and only three days later, Sept. 7, grabbed another decisive road win against the Centenary University Cyclones, 5-0. The team’s first home game would see the Mules face off against the—at the time—9th ranked team in D-III soccer, the Messiah University Falcons.

Following a score given up by both teams, the match headed into two overtime periods. Both teams tightened their defenses and forced the game to end in a tie 1-1.

Although playing strong against one of D-III soccer’s powerhouses is an outstanding achievement, the Mules are seeking to achieve greater than a tie. Winger Francois D’Elia ‘23 believes that the Messiah game showed that the team had immense potential, but also some areas of improvement.

“I think the Messiah game taught us that we can play with anybody and that we can still get a lot better and need to improve to turn that tie into a win for us,” said D’Elia. “Everybody gave everything they had in the game, and it was overall great to get a result at home against one of the best programs in the country in Messiah, but we’re definitely still motivated. We know we have the potential to be a great team this season and have big goals to try and achieve.”

After the tie, the Mules captured two subsequent 1-0 victories against the DeSales University Bulldogs at home and McDaniel College Green Terror away in their first Centennial Conference game of the season. A defensive-minded squad has become the Mules’ identity. “I think defensively we’ve been very good with only one goal given up in five games. Everybody is really willing to work and take pride in that,” D’Elia said. “Improvement-wise, I think it’s just about getting better every day and not dropping focus, [and] treating every opponent as our most important opponent.”

With a 4-0-1 record and Centennial play fast approaching, Head Coach Sean Topping ‘98 is pleased with the team’s early-season success but looks forward to seeing his squad at their full potential. “I have been very pleased with the start to the season. I feel that the team came into preseason camp prepared, and that gave us a great foundation to build on for the season.”

“I think defensively we’ve been very good with only one goal given up in five games. Everybody is really willing to work and take pride in that.”
Francois D’Elia ‘23

Topping also noted the team’s great play on the defensive side of the field but shares that the team still has needed improvements. “Muhlenberg has always been known for a tough defending team and I think we have that back this season so far. We do a really good job at building in the back and through the middle third but need to combine a bit more and make better decisions with our final passes in the attacking 3rd.”

Not only have the expected returning players contributed early on this season, there have been some surprising underclassmen who have stepped in and gotten some serious playing time. “I think the freshman class is great both off the field and as soccer players,” D’Elia says.

The soccer team boasts a unique cast of upperclassmen who have spent significant amounts of time with each other. They are a group of players who have had both experience back in their last full season 2019, but also guys who are finally cracking the starting line-up. “It has been great to see Reuben Oshman [‘22] finally making an impact in the starting lineup after a few years of injuries,” Topping said. “Brendan Duffy [‘23] has been solid in goal and Mark Walter [‘22] & Chris Richards [‘23] have picked up where they left off in 2019 having very good starts to the season.”

The strength of the team is not just its returning upperclassmen, but the sudden emergence of several underclassmen. Topping is impressed with the amount of new contributing players. “I think one of the major strengths of our team this year is the tremendous depth we have all over the field... We have some first year players breaking into the lineup which is always great to see and some older players bringing their experience into the lineup.”

“Our outside backs have been fantastic in two sophomore players, Caleb Herring [‘24] and Zach Mikuta [‘24]. Their workrate and athleticism make life difficult for opposing wingers,” said Topping.

The Mules are currently ranked 17th in the United Soccer Coaches Top 25 NCAA D-III Poll and are set to travel to Misericordia University on Sept. 22 to challenge the Cougars before coming back Sept. 25 to open their bulk of Centennial Conference play against the Washington College Shoremen.

Cheer for cheer!

Photo by Ellana Bershadscky ‘23

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Muhlenberg cheerleading team had their second event of the year, cheering on Muhlenberg football during their home game against Ursinus College.

The cheerleading team cheers at home games for the football team and both the men’s and women’s basketball teams. They are set to have an extremely busy fall semester; the football team is at the start of its season and will play into November, and both of the basketball teams will begin their seasons in early November. They will be cheerleading for the basketball teams into the spring semester as both of the teams’ seasons stretch into the next calendar year.

Emily Plowright ‘23 spoke about what a normal week is like for a cheerleader when they’re in season. “Every week, we have two practices that are each two and a half hours long and two lifting sessions in the weight room. We also meet two or more hours before the football games to warm-up and fundraise for the team through our 50/50 raffles. In the past, we would have cheer workouts on our own, but we just started getting official lifting times through the school’s athletic trainers. This is a huge accomplishment for us because we’ve been working towards becoming more recognized as a sport through the College.”

Despite cheerleading not being recognized, Co-Captain Ava Bianchi ‘23 maintained a positive outlook. “I’m from Long Island and cheer is considered a sport there, so it was a weird transition from being completely included within athletics to being on the ‘outskirts.’ However, I think that cheerleading not being considered a sport allows the team more time to get involved in other ways around campus since we do not have a required amount of days we need to practice and condition.

Former cheerleader Ashleigh Correll ‘22 shed light on the fact that as a result of not being recognized as an official team, funding is constantly a problem. “Funding has always been an issue. We’ve always had to work towards raising money for essential items like uniforms, poms, jackets, and bags. We relied on fundraising and donations to get these things. The team’s main source of income was selling raffle tickets at the football games. We worked just as hard as any other team, just to be overlooked by athletics,” said Correll.

Head Coach Tara White talked about how the team prepares for a year of cheerleading. “Our team does two major fundraisers a year in order to pay for any expenses during the season. Our fundraising efforts have allowed the team to purchase game attire as well as preseason necessities,” White said. She added, “Our team returns to school early every summer for preseason to begin working on cheers, chants, band dances, and stunts in order to help prepare us for performing at the games.”

Besides cheering at the home games for the football and basketball teams, the cheerleading team is active through other events at ‘Berg. “I’ve coached at Muhlenberg for the past three years and in that time the school has included us in more opportunities including Mulementum, Mule Madness, and Chi Alpha Sigma,” said White.

However, the team does not compete in competitive cheering competitions against other schools’ cheerleading teams. White commented on that subject, saying, “Currently, we do not compete. Unfortunately, there are few competitions at the collegiate level for D-III schools. Competing is something that has been discussed, however we have had some setbacks and continue to work on growing to ready us for competition in the future.”

Plowright commented on why she was interested in joining the team.

“Personally, I knew I wanted to cheer in college before I even started applying to schools. I started cheering in sixth grade and all throughout high school, so it’s been something I’m passionate about for awhile. Cheering at Muhlenberg has given me the opportunities to meet so many new people, and it has given me a lot of structure to balance out my academics,” said Plowright.

Bianchi shared that sentiment and was determined to continue cheering at Muhlenberg, like she did in high school. “I was interested in joining cheer because of my prior experience and I knew it would be a great way to make friends as a freshman,” Bianchi said.

White also expressed why she accepted the coaching position, saying “Prior to coaching at Muhlenberg I had coached for over 20 years for various teams including recreational, high school, all-star and college. I always enjoyed coaching at the collegiate level, and three years ago, in 2018, I was not coaching. When I found out Muhlenberg was looking for a cheerleading coach, I applied for the position with the hope of sharing my knowledge and years of experience as a coach to help the team grow and work towards achieving their goals.”

Much like Coach White, Bianchi was extremely pleased with the cheerleading team’s immense growth. “I am really proud at how far the cheer team has come in just the two years I have been here. The school has increased its support of the team and has started to include us in many activities that we were never a part of before.”

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Field Hockey

Muhlenberg
vs
Dickinson
Sat., Sept. 25 @ 12:00 p.m.
Carlisle, Pa.

Volleyball

Muhlenberg
vs
Dickinson
Sat., Sept. 25 @ 1:00 p.m.
Carlisle, Pa.

Football

Muhlenberg
vs
McDaniel
Sat., Sept. 25 @ 2:00 p.m.
Westminster, Md.

Men’s Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Washington College
Sat., Sept. 25 @ 7:00 p.m.
Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
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THE MUHLEN-PLAGUE

hits campus amid COVID anxieties

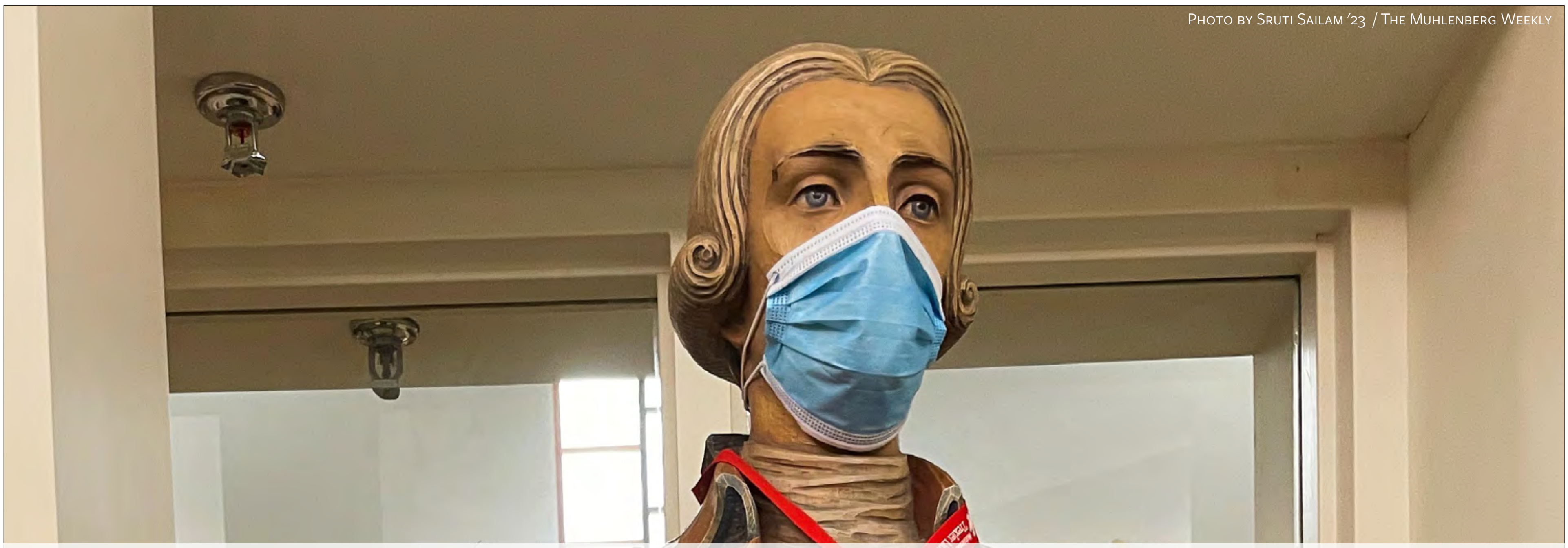

Photo by Sruti Sailam '23 / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg demonstrates proper mask wearing in these scary times.

By Alex Caban-Echevarria
Contributing Writer

The switch back to in-person learning at Muhlenberg has required rearranging — not just reverting to the way things were. The protocols campus saw last semester: surveillance testing, symptom trackers and residence hall visitor policies are drastically different. Surveillance testing is no longer occurring, symptom trackers have been phased out and the visitor policy only applies to off-campus visitors. The COVID-19 vaccination requirement enabled these changes and made students more comfortable.

Although there is a high rate of vaccination, that only represents students and staff. "The currently reported number, 96 percent vaccinated, would be great if we were in a giant glass globe where no one entered or exited. It minimizes our risk as long as we only interact with each other," says Chrysan Cronin, Ph.D, director and associate professor of public health. However, the wider Muhlenberg community exists outside of the bubble between Liberty and Chew.

Campus currently faces the "Muhlen-plague," the seasonal cold that students don't want to catch yet inevitably still spreads. The cacophony of coughing heard in all classes demonstrates that many students are getting sick. Larissa Davidowitz '23 observed that "With this 'Muhlen-plague' thing, [people] will just say, 'Oh, it's the Muhlen-plague, I don't need to get tested.' You could just say you're sick with Muhlen-plague, you don't have to say COVID."

Without surveillance testing, COVID-19 could be running rampant without anyone's knowledge. Two of the most common symptoms for unvaccinated people are persistent cough and high fever, but they don't often present in breakthrough cases. This can lead to students looking for the wrong things and ignoring what might be COVID. According to the reported numbers on the COVID-19 dashboard, there are already six student cases and three faculty cases, but that's just for symptomatic testing and contact tracing.

The COVID dashboard located on Muhlenberg's website is the control center for all case updates. While it is meant to communicate these numbers with the Muhlenberg community, they only represent a small population. Cronin explains, "The current strategy that the College is using also depends on people self-reporting symptoms, which some people are reluctant to do."

"This practice does not allow for a proper assessment of the level of risk each of us is at... We are selection biasing our results, further limiting the usefulness of those numbers, which leads to underestimation of the positives."

Students who feel sick and can't attend classes can arrange with their professors different ways to make up work. One digital accommodation is to set up Zoom meetings for students to join, but some professors have expressed unwillingness to stream classes on Zoom, and have even gone as far to float the idea of students taking a temporary medical leave if they test positive.

Alison Rutyna '23 said, "I think it's really challenging. Even though so many of us are getting sick for two weeks at a time, three weeks at a time, professors are not changing their attendance standards. Even though we now do have the ability to have people Zoom into class, they're not taking advantage of that. They're expecting you to come to class even though you're sick. But then they say don't come to class if you're sick. It puts a lot of students in a really mixed position. That is not fun."

Julia De Vita '23 agreed, saying, "I just find it frustrating because I only have one professor that is allowing us to Zoom into classes, and while others are making adjustments in some ways, we can't forget that we're still in a pandemic. I have one professor who tells me to not come to class if you're feeling sick. They don't want you to come in, but it still is going to affect your grades. And there's no alternative option if you don't know if you're [COVID] negative or not."

This strategy is not necessarily used for "flipped classrooms" like Assistant Professor of Public Health Kathleen Bachynski's, Ph.D., epidemiology class this semester. "My current flipped classroom approach is where I have my lectures prerecorded and in-person is more like practice problems and conversation. That way if you can't be there in person, you can watch the lectures on your own time and rewind or take notes."

Dean of Academic Life Michele Deegan stresses that "Students need to remember that it's usually okay to miss a class or two and any time they are missing class, to talk with their instructors, as we all have different absentee policies and practices for making up work. We want you to come to class, to engage with us, and with one another, in person."

The Office of Disability Services also provides plans for students who need the option to take a leave of absence from classes for up to three weeks, as well as a completely remote option this semester.

Students missing class may be visiting Muhlenberg's health center. However, limited hours and an unprecedented demand for appointments has left the health center struggling to keep up. Grace Nyberg '23 is one student feeling these effects. "I know everyone right now is sick, but I was always sick my freshman year and even then it was so difficult." Some changes may be seen soon, such as the addition of telehealth appointments, referrals to local urgent cares with healthcare professionals and a third-party company for rapid testing.

In a recent update, Dean of Students Allison Williams addressed the health center concerns: "Some of our patient load is driven by normal health issues prevalent in college communities. This is currently compounded by all of us expe-

See **Muhlen-Plague** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

09/21/2021
M.I.L.E. House: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset.

09/22/2021
College owned property: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Prosser Hall: Report to locate student, student could not be located, message left with roommate, no further incident.
The Village: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused transport, transported to hospital via friend.

09/23/2021
Seegers Union: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.
Walz/Brown (North) Parking Lot: Report of minor motor vehicle accident causing damage to drivers sidefront fender, individuals exchanged information, no further incident.
Walz: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

09/24/2021
Front Drive: Report of Muhlenberg College banner, no suspects at this time.

09/25/2021
Walz Hall: Report of alcohol violation, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

09/26/2021
Tilghman Street: Report of noise complaint, upon arrival residents identified and spoked to, area cleared, referred to Dean of Students Office.
Liberty Street: Report of noise complaint, upon arrival a large group of students seen leaving area, no location could be noted, no further incident.
Leh Street: Report of noise complaint, residents identified and spoken to and notified to clean up trash, Disruptive Conduct Report also to be issued.
South Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.
Prosser Hall: Report of suspicious person, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Allen Street: Report of red Muhlenberg lounge chair found in alley, Plant Operations notified to respond to pick up and return to campus.
Benfer Hall: Report of broken window, residents spoken to, Plant Operations notified to repair, no suspects at this time.

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Select your 6 favorite beverages for a discounted rate at the General's Quarters. Choose from the soda, water & gatorade pack OR upgrade to the Starbucks & energy drink pack!
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Muhlenberg College Dining

Implementing anti-racist initiatives on campus

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

On the evening of Wednesday, June 10, 2020, Muhlenberg community members received an email in their inboxes. Attached to this email was a document containing both a letter and an action plan, "both of which [spoke] to [Black faculty's] desire to move both the nation and Muhlenberg toward genuinely inclusive, anti-racist futures." In short, the letter "call[ed] on the College to make more substantive efforts to center the experiences, theories, and activism of Black people, particularly regarding their efforts combating racism, coloniality and anti-Blackness."

Below the letter, after a lengthy list of faculty co-signers, was the action plan. Included therein were various requests and suggestions. Categories of requests covered recruitment and retention of Black students and students of color, hiring and retention of Black Faculty and faculty of color, institutional leadership and capacity in diversity, equity and inclusion, support for and expansion of the Africana studies program, initiatives that support Black students and students of color and curricular change and extracurricular event support.

Since the receipt of this letter over a year ago, the primary changes have been seen in that final category: curricular change. The music, theatre & dance, psychology and English departments, among others, have changed their curricula in various ways. Alterations include renamed and reimagined courses, completely new courses, more diverse performance material and more.

Francesca Coppa, Ph.D., of the English department comments that "In terms of department curriculum changes, I'm proud of what we've done in English. The renamed Department of English Literatures and Writing... has a new curriculum with a focus on social justice... and we have new classes like 'Black Comedy/Black Drama;' 'Literature, Social Justice, & Current Events;' 'Black Women Writers,' et cetera. We are also delighted that we have Center for Diversity Fellow Ali McTar teaching for us this year... I love the CDF [sic] program and think that it's been successful in attracting talented, diverse candidates to our campus."

But the list of demands extended far beyond changes in curricula. Students and staff still have hopes for more equitable and anti-racist future for Muhlenberg that reaches beyond the subjects taught in the classroom. "I'm not sure I will ever be satisfied with the progress that the College has made or is making, but isn't that the point?" says Student Government Association President Zaire Carter '22. "We should never be satisfied in work relating to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice. I do believe the College is making progress in a few areas, specifically the President's Diversity Advisory Council, which did a lot of work in facilitating conversations around diversity and belonging, and how we can envision a more equitable, fair and just campus climate together, truly supporting the office of multicultural life, which means not only giving them appropriate funds and resources, but supporting the students who are closely tied to that office, like all of our affinity groups, Emerging Leaders, et cetera. So, those are a few things that we're making progress on, but like everything in this work, there is still plenty that needs to be done in terms of equity, fairness, access and representation that we will continue to push."

This belief is echoed by staff members. As Coppa expresses, "The College has more to do in addressing the initiatives outlined in the faculty letter. We need to support programs like Africana studies, Latinx and Asian studies, and Women's and Gender studies that are intellectual centers for diversity. While we are doing better at recruiting and retaining students of color, we can and should do more, and we definitely need to do more for faculty. There are hires on the way for Africana studies, and the College has partnered with various experts to help us improve hiring and faculty retention broadly speaking, but that's a slow process and we haven't really seen results yet. We need muscle (and money) behind our good intentions!"

Still, the future seems bright. "I do feel like I've seen genuine enthusiasm for centering Blackness (and anti-racism) in our curriculum and that has made it an exciting time to be teaching and learning here," said Coppa.

'Berg reacts to changes in Residence Hall Visitor Policy

Confused by the Residence Hall visitor policy? You're not the only one.

By Matthew Klinger
Contributing Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted campus life in a multitude of ways. It was thought that the vaccine would help facilitate a return to normalcy, and while it is a big sign of progress that students are back on campus and learning in-person, some policies from last year remain in place. Though, unlike last semester, while students can leave campus and travel wherever they please, off-campus visitor guidelines are still strictly in place. Current regulations dictate that no visitors are allowed in college-owned residence halls or housing of any kind, with a visitor being defined as "any individual who is a non-Muhlenberg student" according to the updated policy guidelines published on Aug. 29 of this year. The repercussions for a violation of these policies are severe: a primary sanction can range from a warning all the way to removal from housing entirely.

COVID regulations do not only apply to non-Muhlenberg students; the student body is still required to maintain the masking precedents from the previous semesters. There are currently three statuses of masking that campus administrators have outlined: red, yellow and green. These phases are determined by a multitude of metrics, using both data from on-campus spread and COVID infection numbers in the Lehigh Valley. The red phase requires all individuals to wear a mask both inside all spaces and outside when on campus. The yellow phase requires masks for all individuals when indoors except for in residence halls, and the green phase is the most lenient, with only those that are unvaccinated being required to wear a mask on campus. Muhlenberg, as of right now, is in the yellow phase. According to Courtney Stephens, the director of housing and residence life, "Breakthrough infections can still occur, as can the transmission of the virus from a vaccinated person to an unvaccinated person... measures such as masking are still necessary to ensure the safe, in-person experience of our community." In addition, it is believed that the banning of non-Muhlenberg students from residence halls will protect the current status of herd immunity, which is demonstrated by the COVID-19 dashboard. The dashboard shows that 96 percent of students are fully vaccinated, one percent are partially vaccinated, and three percent have approved exceptions. All of these factors point to residence hall visitor restrictions staying in place for some time.

Matthew Kilinger / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Residence halls see less traffic than usual during these different times.

Talking to a number of students, there is widespread confusion about what the actual guidelines are. Of the students that were interviewed, only about 20 percent of them actually knew what the guidelines were. When asked their opinions on the visitor guidelines, one student remarked that they "had no idea that [regulations] even existed." The lack of knowledge regarding the new policies might be problematic, especially when considering the severity of the potential consequences.

There were diverse opinions among those that were familiar with the guidelines. As one student put it, "I don't agree with the guidelines, but I understand, given the circumstances, why they are necessary." Her friend shared that sentiment, saying "I agree. I don't like the fact that I can't have non-Muhlenberg students in my room, but I prefer it to being shut down."

Not everyone was so accepting of the new guidelines. Ian Clark '25 questioned the policy, saying that, "[If] visitors are allowed in Seegers, the dining hall and other academic buildings, then why can't they come into the residence halls? Just have them wear a mask. As long as safety protocols are put in place, I don't see any issue with it."

"I understand the not sleeping over part. I know other colleges have allowed that, and they have had bad COVID outbreak[s]. But, I don't understand the not going into the resi-

See **Visitor** page 4

Sonia Shah lecture covers people and microbes on the move

BY MATTHEW BARESH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PHOTO BY TOM AMICO FOR THE MUHLENBERG COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Sonia Shah speaks on the human origins on pandemics.

Award winning journalist and author Sonia Shah took the podium in Moyer Hall last Wednesday, Sept. 22, to deliver a compelling lecture on the transmission and prevention of viruses. Shah is a well-known author in science and politics and has written multiple books including "Pandemic: Tracking Contagions, from Cholera to Ebola, Beyond" and "The Fever." Her writing on science and politics has been featured in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, and Scientific American, with appearances on CNN, Radiolab, and TedTalk.

"There's this sense that it's not a question of if—it's a question of when the next pandemic will happen," explained Shah during the opening of her lecture. "We need to be prepared for that. We need to stockpile vaccines, build up our public health infrastructure, build surplus capacity in our hospitals."

Shah challenged this ideology, saying that instead of being prepared for the next pandemic, we should prevent the pandemic altogether. Our actions, she asserted, are the origin of microbial spread. "[Pandemics] are very much manufactured by our social, our political and our economic relations with each other and with nature and the environment. So, we have a lot of agency in how pandemics happen," said Shah. "Why pandemics are happening on a broad scale is driven by humans invading wildlife habitat on a scale unprecedented in human history. The species that remain have to squeeze in and those places are more frequently in contact with where we live and pathogens take advantage of that."

Shah concluded that the spread of disease from wild animals does not occur only in far off places, but rather right here in North America. The loss of biodiversity leads to the rapid spread of pathogens and therefore pandemics across the world. Shah mentioned the West Nile virus as an example. Mosquitos bit infected birds and transmitted the West Nile virus to humans in 1999 in New York City.

"Microbes have been moving from other species into humans for millennia, but the pace is quickening now," said Shah. "People are living in slum conditions, creating prime conditions for pathogens."

"A majority of livestock live in the animal equivalent of a slum as well. These animals are living where they are breathing on each other and being exposed to each other's waste, creating great amplification opportunities for novel pathogens. These pathogens thrive amongst livestock and replicate and mutate and become much more variant."

Due to the large amount of livestock, Shah reasoned that the substantial amounts of waste produced cause sanitary crises across the globe, with bacteria like E. coli polluting drinking water and soil, furthering the spread of disease. Microbes can also be spread through our global economy, specifically by plane, through the transportation of both goods and people.

Shah switched perspectives to discuss our response to pandemics and our role in the fight against microbes.

This uniting of people has the unintended consequence of fueling divisions. This is especially true at the southern border, with immigrants not being allowed into the United States due to the pandemic.

"To survive this, we need to let people move just like we let wild species move, that is the solution to all this change around us," said Shah on the topic of division. "While we're pointing fingers at each other, the microbes are continuing their journey."

The lecture had a remarkable turnout and was well-received by students. "It was really exciting to be able to attend a guest lecture again in person after a year and a half on Zoom," said Sarah Koenig '23. "It was nice to be in a room with other people and listen to them asking questions."

Shivani Iyer '23 concurred, noting that, "While for many of us we think of COVID-19 instantly when we hear the word pandemic, Shah reminded us through her talk of the historical implications of past pandemics and what we could have learned in preparation for the one we currently are in."

"Our response is shaped by the stories we tell," she explained. The narrative currently being pushed out is that "[We] are the passive and unsuspecting victims of this alien invasion, COVID-19, with our weapons being drugs and vaccines," but Shah ended her lecture on an empowering note that humans cannot be passive. Instead, we must be active in preparation for the next pandemic.

FROM **MUHLEN-PLAGUE** PAGE 1

riencing a reawakening of our immune systems after significant time in isolated settings."

Many students are already going off-campus and visiting local urgent cares, specifically to get tested. These off-campus urgent care test results do not automatically get reported to the school as those from the health center do, thus removing more students from the testing population, and the inaccuracy of the COVID dashboard numbers continue.

De Vita added, "I did go to the health center. It was extremely hard to make an appointment. I called [and I] did not get a response. I had to go in person. I went in person [and] they said they didn't have any availability. I actually ended up getting a parking ticket the next time I went because I parked on the street. There was no parking in the parking lots. So during that 40 minute appointment that I finally was able to make, I got a parking ticket because it was during the street cleaning times. I didn't want to walk when I was ill. They said there was not much they could do, [it] was just a common cold. And then I was obviously not getting any better. I went back maybe like four days later, and then they finally took me more seriously and gave me antibiotics for my sinus infection... Then I finally got better."

Additional reporting by Cydney Wilson '23

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
YOU WANT TO:
AMPLIFY STUDENT VOICES
RECORD MUHLENBERG HISTORY
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& CREATE!

FROM **VISITOR** PAGE 3

dence halls at all," Matthew Baresh '25 said.

"I can see the risk if people are not wearing a mask, but we know that most people are vaccinated and that masks are effective, so as long as the visitor has been vaccinated and wears a mask, I don't see the issue with them going inside the residence halls," said Ethan Yazdanyar '25.

When the 2021 COVID guidelines were being created, the College consulted with about 250 students to ensure safety while also being attentive to student's needs. Administrators are also working closely with the Student Government Association and Peer Health Advocates at Muhlenberg regarding policy updates and changes.

PHAM member Chris Xu '22 comments that "The residence hall policy is good especially because students can easily socialize in groups without having the mask restriction. With the vaccine mandate, there is little risk from the outside Allentown community for transmission. That allows students to be together with lowered restrictions. However, this could potentially change if there are non-Muhlenberg people entering residence halls."

“But out of limitations comes creativity.”
- Debbie Allen

Arts review series: The Witherbees

By Danny Milkis
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 24, Muhlenberg’s Egner Memorial Chapel was adorned with sound systems and colored strobe lights. The many rows of pews were shrouded in darkness, and the blue-and-red streaks of ambient luminescence created an eerie, intimate atmosphere in the space.

The Witherbees, a small band with the unique sound and style to match the unique performance space, played prior to a presentation by esteemed guitarist Tim Motzer, who also had a concert set planned at Muhlenberg in March of 2020. Talented musician duo Mike Lorenz and Jacqui Armbruster guided the audience through the evening, as they shared their stories and heartfelt lyrics.

The full team of instrumentalists, which is present in the band’s discography, also includes Justin Sekelewski on the bass and Kyle Andrews and Zach Martin on the drums. Additionally, there is a strong presence of more abstract instrumental devices and motifs, including features of an electronic valve instrument, organ, piano and pedal steel guitar.

Lorenz, the band’s guitarist, described the musical style as being “a little bit of jazz, a little bit of folk, a bit of something totally new and different.” The melodies and vocals had a definitively contemporary feel, while the instrumentation contained an intrinsically connected sense of nostalgia.

The scene was set with an original song called “Copy & Paste,” which featured a floating array of lounge-style instrumental jazz. The piece’s true highlight was in its string solos, which highlighted Armbruster on the viola.

“That percussion layer is so smooth...it felt like I was listening to a mystery,” said audience member Irene Keeney ‘23. “Like a detective movie...10/10 would listen again.”

After the piece ended, The Witherbees introduced “Easy,” with a short description about how this piece was one of several originals by Armbruster.

“It was a vintage sound but with modern textures,” said audience member Josh Freeman ‘23, a member of the Great American Songbook Project, a student organization specializing in music from the 1920s-1960s, discussing the musicality of the song. “This song is someone whispering sweet nothings in your ear, and overall it was a really fun sound.”

“A little bit of jazz, a little bit of folk, a bit of something totally new and different.”
-Mike Lorenz, guest guitarist

In addition to a variety of original jazz-folk pieces, The Witherbees are also known for their intriguing covers of hit songs, and more specifically the ways in which the artists are able to transform those songs and imbue new meaning into the orchestrations. Their album “Tribute Valley,” which was described by the Witherbees as “an odds-and-sods EP,” contains a number of Armbruster and Lorenz’s favorite covers, includes some favorites such as “When the Stars Go Blue″ by Ryan Adams, ″Nubian Lady″ by Yusef Lateef, ″Sadness Don′t Own Me″ by the Staves, ″April Kisses″ by Eddie Lang and ″Side with the Seeds″ by Wilco.

The band ended the night with an uptempo, fast-paced finale, which tapped into their folk side and bore musical resemblance to many American folk tunes.

“Thank you all so much for coming out to the Chapel to support our work,” exclaimed Armbruster. “This has been a great way to end an outstanding season of live performances this summer, and we’re just so happy to be making live music again.”

Coming up in ARTS & CULTURE

″En el tiempo de las mariposas” (In the time of the butterflies)	Sept. 30 - Oct. 3
Arts Marathon	Oct. 16
Second Music Department Student Recital	Oct. 20
″Call Me By Any Other Name...Just As Sweet”	Oct. 28 - Oct. 31

Unconquered

Photo Courtesy Of "Unconquered" film by Earl Mosley

By Ian Clark
Contibuting Writer

Twenty-twenty was a year that shook the world in many ways; social justice and the pandemic brought massive changes to society. This change is exactly what Earl Mosley wanted to touch upon in his new piece "Unconquered," a nonfiction account that showcases expressive and powerful movement to communicate ideas that are at the forefront of society.

Mosley himself actually doesn't describe it as a piece in his talk following a screening on Sept. 24, he describes it as "a moment encapsulated like a message in a bottle and then one day someone would find that note and read what happened."

He wants "Unconquered" to inspire others to be what the title says: Not be conquered; not by society, not by people, but instead to embrace oneself and not be chained down. Mosley went on to describe the creative process of how "Unconquered" came to be, bringing up instances when he watched the news during the Black Lives Matter protests in May and June of 2020. Mosley describes watching people dance in the streets. Even in a time of unrest, people were able to move and use their bodies to send a message, and more importantly to spark meaningful change in a manner that inspired his own work.

An important message Mosley touched on was the relationship between the ways different generations protest. This is highlighted in "Unconquered" where the opening dance is set to a speech given by George W. Bush, which, as Mosley points out, isn't who you'd first think of when discussing Black Lives Matter. However, Mosley found his speech very moving, and that juxtaposition spoke to him.

Mosley stated that this was his "way of moving forward and not judging a book by its cover." The speech from Bush at the beginning is mirrored with a speech from the late John Lewis at the end. These two speeches from two different times, and more importantly two different, yet similar, Americas, shows the power protest has. The power that comes from change, something that lasts eternally and transcends generations. He also used the audio of a speaker at a Black Lives Matter march to hammer home this idea of pro-

SEE **UNCONQUERED** PAGE 7

New choir director on quest to heal and unify the Muhlenberg community

By Curtis Dai
Contibuting Writer

Beginning this fall, Nèviton Barros, Ph.D., has taken on the role of conductor for Muhlenberg's college choir and adjunct professor.

Barros holds a degree in voice performance from the Escola de Música de Brasília and a Bachelor of Music from the Universidade de Brasília. In 2014, he began his studies at Hunter College, and in 2016 he earned a Master of Arts with specialisation in conducting. In 2018 Barros entered Louisiana State University to earn his Doctorate of Musical Arts. He majored in choral studies with a minor in Vocal Pedagogy before graduating in May, 2021.

When asked about any potential changes he wished to make to the program, Barros stated, "I wouldn't say I am making changes… [With] the world situation with COVID and other political and social justice issues we are having, I believe [what] our students need, not only from choir but from every class, is to learn how to become better human beings and to heal."

Barros hopes to provide every student with an opportunity to heal and feel safe; he wishes to use the power of music to help each student become better citizens and kinder human beings. Barros is committed to the idea of healing. His vision for the program is largely spiritual, and he looks to use the power of music to repair this raging and exhausted world.

Barros shared, "I believe that among art, music is the one which helps human beings to develop to their maximum potential."

After a brief pause, he again lifted his voice and said, "Choir is the equaliser of all the performance art." He pointed out that financial restraints are one of the biggest problems that stop many students who have interest in performing arts. The cost of instruments is just too great to even consider for many families; with choir, there is no instrument required, which naturally makes it more accessible. Barros also believes that choir has the power to unify a community. He says, "You will learn how to sing as a collective, which is so powerful."

This semester, Barros will also provide the students with opportunities to explore other cultures. The choir will perform songs in Zulu, French and more. "I believe, in choir, the students are exposed to so many different cultures." The choir will only have two meetings a week on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00-6:30 p.m. A flexible schedule will make sure this program will be accessible to the vast majority of the student population.

"Every rehearsal, we will not only be going to learn how to make music, we are learning more about ourselves and society and about different cultures. We are creating a sense of community. You are making connections for your whole life, it is a triple win!" stated Barros.

"At the first rehearsal, we filled out 'getting to know you' sheets where we answered a set of questions," said Joe Grisanzio '23, a member of the college choir. "Since then we've been able to learn so much about each other."

Barros is on a quest to heal and unify all the community members through the power of music, and he stated repeatedly that all are welcome to participate in the choir, and to take this opportunity to heal. With a great amount of kindness Barros even invited the interviewer to join the choir but with minimum amount of self awareness the interviewer has declined the offer, with a voice like Donald Duck, his appearance in this program will be disastrous.

Photo Courtesy of @nevitonbarros on Instagram

Barros shared, "My dream would be that the whole college will be singing choir—students, professors, people who work on the campus—it is a way where you have a chance to meet everybody regardless of their social backgrounds or their gender identities or gender expressions. In the choir we are all one and we are all equal."

Stepping into a new semester

Photo Courtesy of @muhlenbergsteppers on Instagram

By Johnny Veglia
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

The Muhlenberg College community includes a wide variety of activities and clubs for students to participate in and have their talents showcased and voices heard. One of the clubs on campus is able to do both at the same time with the power of step.

The Mayhem Step Team is Muhlenberg's first step team, and was started in November of 2019, according to Trevon Young '22, the team's co-captain. The group's founding members included Young, Jordan West '23 and Kaiyah Gardner-Williams.

The club had to be dispersed due to COVID-19 and couldn't become the full and united group that they are today until this semester. Matthew McCray '24, the team's current captain, also started a club at the end of his first year and decided to join forces with Young and his existing group.

McCray stated, "I came in my freshman year wanting to create the step team and by the end of my spring semester I got Eric Thompson '10 to be a sponsor for the team and that's how my step team was created." Eric Thompson is the current associate director of admissions and coordinator of transfer admissions. McCray and Young came together to form the Mayhem Step Team.

The Mayhem Step Team continues to flourish this semester as the club refocuses and adds more members. The team is composed of McCray as captain, Young as co-captain, West as stroll instructor and Bryson Brunson '25 as public relations. With a new class of first-year students on campus, the club has found new members and has formed a new role in the 'Berg community.

"Fortunately, this semester we found the freshmen, and we created the step and bonded together. We showcased it here at the student activities fair. Since then, we have been called Mayhem. It's basically a group geared to promoting multicultural awareness in the form of dance and movement of steps through various forms of community," stated Young.

The club first performed at the student activities fair on Sept. 3, marking an exciting start for all that lies in store. The performance was energetic and fun as six young artists utilized their bodies to make movements and create ripple effects amongst one another.

"It's basically a group geared to promoting multicultural awareness in the form of dance and movement of steps"
Trevon Young '22

To prepare for these performances, the group meets on Sundays from 12-4 p.m. to rehearse, or 12-2 p.m. depending on people's schedules. Young and McCray come to every practice with a set of movements and choreography. However the movement still allows for group exploration and growth. The students are able to practice in a space allotted by the Muhlenberg Black Students Association. McCray mentioned, "Rehearsals go pretty well. We have warm-ups, which is basically doing up and unders where we do various clapping and rhythmic steps or styles. We do over-unders, which is just you clap over our legs and then under our legs and do it repeatedly. Then we stretch and just check in with everyone to see how they are doing. Then we go into doing various steps that we already know and then create from those steps a full performance."

The choreography allows for a more devised experience for the participants so they can shape the piece as well, with the group members being asked to contribute. When shaping performances, McCray mentions how the group pulls from a roster of already focused and completed movements.

West echoes the community aspect of the group and the rehearsal process. West declared, "The rehearsal process builds character and teamwork. We don't just breeze through routines, if one person doesn't understand one part then we will all keep repeating that part. No one gets left behind and we push each other to grow. I appreciate the space to collaborate with my teammates because even though it's tough at times, I know my teammates are working hard too."

Young is also accommodating of different members' personal conflicts and offers rehearsals on Saturdays as well to avoid conflicts. "I can say the team has been very dedicated and has already covered a lot of material that is community based, and when I [say] community, everyone's able to add on to it," Young said.

The next performance for the team is on Oct. 30 in Seegers Union in the Great Room. Young hopes the experience will include schools and performances from outside the Muhlenberg area and allow for more of a traditional step show or dance competition.

McCray shared that it will be a large step show and how the team has been rigorously preparing for the date. If the current COVID-19 guidelines allow, the performances could include outside step teams and showcase how vast and diverse this form of movement is.

The work of the group is extremely important for the campus, as it offers a new perspective for Muhlenberg students. West said "When students go to the performances I hope they gain exposure to a culture they have never seen before. A culture that can be misunderstood and sometimes overlooked. The first performance had so much energy! The crowd truly embraced the team and gave us the fire to shut it down at our next performance on October 30th!"

From **UNCONQUERED** page 6

tests, speeches and the need for change being the common thread that binds us together.

"Unconquered" briefly touches on the effects of the pandemic as a whole, featuring some news segments about COVID-19, and an incredible dance set to Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," and performed by Mosley's husband dressed as a healthcare worker. These moments add to the overall message of the production since the pandemic helped bring many issues to light and along with it, major social change. Mosley brought "Unconquered" to Muhlenberg because, similar to him talking about breaking down the barriers of generation, he wishes to do a form of "Unconquered" here as well. Mosley said he wants to use a variety of disciplines to represent who students are as a generation, how change and protest fit into our day and age to create something that maintains the same flow of ideas yet presented in a way that is unique to ourselves as a community and as a generation.

"I've seen that argument and I've seen that portrayal [social justice through dance] many times, probably because I was in a gap year primarily focused on social justice issues and racism, especially in Portland, Oregon. So, it was everywhere. But it didn't hit me as much as I was expecting it to," said Maddie Davidson '25.

As a film and performance, "Unconquered" was truly something to marvel at and almost acted like a peephole into a larger project, which it very well seems to be. "Unconquered," using little dialogue and an ecstatic, empathetic and energetic form of movement, produces so much engagement and interesting images through dance. It also demonstrates an interesting visual style from a filmmaking perspective, using different locations, backgrounds and formats to show the dances and poetry samples. Mosley has created something special that could act as a framework for further art in the vein of "Unconquered," art to bring about awareness and most importantly, change.

"In terms of [existing as] a person with privilege, I felt that I also could use my privilege for something better," said Robin Title '25. "He did a really brilliant job with everything."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS
Editorial

SAY YOU'LL SUPPORT TRANS PEOPLE, AND THEN ACTUALLY DO IT

By Anonymous

I woke up early to write about anti-trans behavior within our community. I wrapped myself in a blanket, and my fingers started typing before I could even wake up enough to think about my schedule or who I would love to grab a meal with today. I don't need to eat breakfast or drink coffee first; these words live inside my body at any given moment of the day. They are visceral. They are rooted in my muscles and movement. They shape me—reinforce my presentation of self, the way I navigate all spaces at any given time. These experiences create me and hold me constantly.

Everyone always talks about how Muhlenberg is a significantly queer campus. I've heard countless jokes and comments about how all of our students are gay, about how artsy and queer the environment is here. I agree with the sentiment in certain scenarios, and this was the case for myself and many of my close friends in relation to our own sexualities. So, what I share next about my thoughts and experiences is not meant to invalidate anyone who agrees with this sentiment, or who has felt safer to explore their identity and share it with the world here than they did in their hometown and other spaces. But have you ever asked a non-cisgender person about their unique experience on this campus?

This school truly is full of incredible queerness—beautiful to witness, magical to explore. But there is an invisible line drawn once you say you are transgender, non-binary, anything outside of what gender you were assigned at birth. I was privileged that none of my peers were aggressively anti-trans or unaccepting. However, to say you support a person is different than to actually do it.

It's contradictory to celebrate someone's coming out but constantly misgender them. It's unfair to bring a pal on friendship dates but call them incorrectly gendered language the entire time. It reinforces our dysphoria and fears when you tell us you see us but that it's hard to call us what we want to be called. Pronouns aren't difficult. Names aren't difficult. Removing uncomfortable language isn't difficult. Trust is something to be earned, not expected. And we as a student body need to work harder to earn trans students' trust.

What does that look like? Do actual research rather than asking a trans friend basic information about their identity, prodding at a vulnerable part of them. Don't make excuses when you make mistakes. Sit with those mistakes no matter how icky they make you feel; your actions impact people around you, so take accountability. Remember pronouns and affirming language, and build them into yourself—not memorization, but a real shifting and rebuilding of your understanding of gender entirely. For us to be able to say that this campus is beautifully queer and fluid, we're going to have to work incredibly hard to make sure trans students are a significant part of that statement.

I don't write this to scare non-cisgender students or create fear about living authentically and openly. I support and encourage that wholeheartedly. Doing that myself has saved and shaped me. I do write this, however, to shock and shake some cisgender people, both straight and LGBTQ+ community members, into seeing the harmful reality of these spaces and to work harder. This community is incredible in so many ways and has such potential to be even better. I write this to demand that you all put in work and make that potential a new, stronger reality for our community.

Dating While Fat

By Musafa Hall
Op-Ed Editor

Trigger Warning: Body Image/ Body Trauma

Dating has always seemed so impossible. I had this idea that the huge and complex realm of intimacy was not for me; it was simply too large of a galaxy to navigate so I closed myself to it for years. This was also tied with the feeling that I always felt like having sex and doing other intimate things were based on some kind of social timer. A timer where the hands are made up of other people's sexual encounter stories and where the numbers are all the things that I didn't do. All the things I chose not to do. And this timer, charged by the expectations of what I should be doing, rang when I got asked, "have you ever....?" or "when was your first....?" For a long time, I never even viewed my body as something that could attract another person. I deemed myself unlovable from a very young age and that seeped into how I viewed my body in a sexual light.

This feeling was not only because I didn't have all of these interesting sex stories, but it was also rooted in a poor relationship with my fatness. I had cemented this idea into my habitual thought pattern that my fatness was the ultimate blockade in me being loved. In me being deemed attractive. In me being viewed as a sexual being. I viewed my love handles and thick thighs not as beautiful aspects of my body, but rather attributes that scraped and dug into my self-worth. I saw my big arms and chunky stomach not as my body's own formulated and self-constructed art pieces, but as flaws that were embellished with the comments of my past; light and airy comments that floated to my ears innocently yet once they passed my eardrums and found its way to my heart, and eventually fading away into nothingness, chunks, and pieces of my worth went with it. Comments about my body sat on the tongues of those around me for as long as I can recall, coating the inside of their mouths and throats. It constructed their teeth and allowed their jawbones to move smoothly, with ease. All while I was simultaneously being broken down until the comments they made about me became owned by myself and my brain. This is why dating is so difficult.

I constantly wonder if I was skinnier, would it be easier? Or if my skin was lighter. Or if this was bigger. Or if that was just a bit smaller. Over the pandemic, with many hours in therapy, I began to let go of the demeaning comments and self-sabotaging questions that I had hugged and welcomed for almost all of my young life. I nurtured them and watered their roots with my tears for fear of wondering who I was without them. I had to learn to let them go and to deny them nutrients so they can die without me. As I've healed, and continue to do so, I've grown tired of playing the "I wonder" game when it comes to dating and my body and I have begun playing the "this is me, and this is my body and if there is a problem, I suggest you reflect" game. I'm over feeling as though I must change my body and my fatness to appease other people's shallow forms of beauty. The real problem is our societal standards. Not me or how my body looks. No longer will I lean into the comments of my past but continue to reject them. And in their place, I will transfuse my body and spirit with the love and tenderness that I've been denying them for far too long.

And to younger Mustafa, thank you for being so strong. I got it from here.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

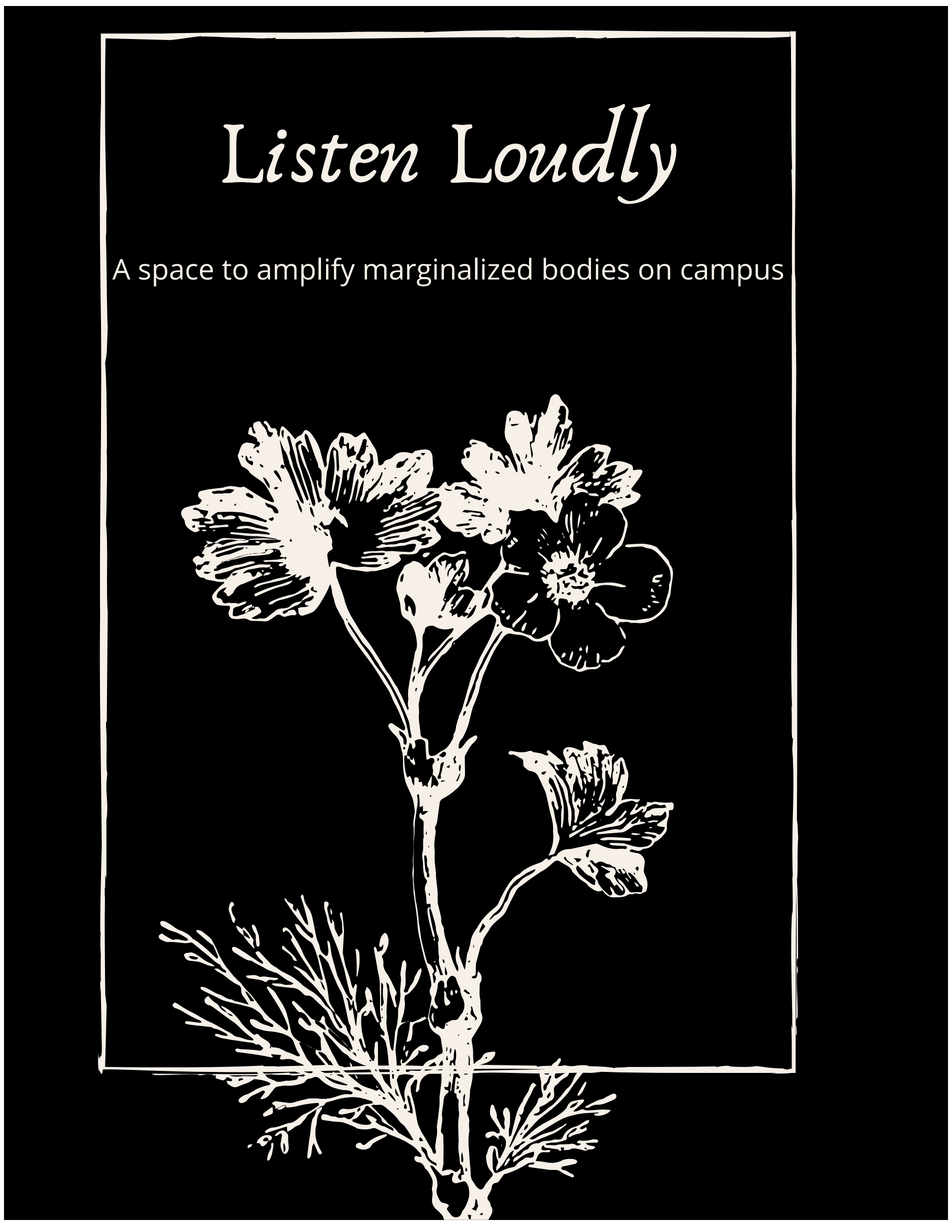
The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.



Listen Loudly

A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

Leadership is in our lineage

By Bernice Owusu
Contributing Writer

They say we are lazy
They say we are uncivilized
They say we are not beautiful
They take away our culture and origin

But what they can't take away is our strength and excellence
Because leadership is in our lineage

We come from a long chain of bravery
A long chain of leaders who built empires and conquered armies
Who sailed the sea and hunted wild life

And
Although bound by chains and toil.
They marched, hoped, and fought

Oh yes we shall continue this legacy
Oh yes we shall conquer all odds
With our talents and gifts
We shall lead

Because leadership is in our lineage

Mystic

By Sydney Baron
Contributing Writer

I just want to know what a soul′s sparkle is made out of
I want to know how to exist with the twinkle and the tears and the heaviness without fading away

Emotion is a wave underneath the sand

Sand is
Flakes of stone that could be mountains
Ruffled and blown by even the smallest upset.

Maybe we all aren′t meant to be as stoic and and as slow moving as mountains are
They are
giants who breathe in life from every corner yet
Absorb change silently and secretly

Maybe we′re meant to be sand
Blown with the wind and unafraid of motion.
Unafraid to be swept away and piled up and made into castles that fall to the ground as quickly as they were made

Prick me with the thorns of ephemerality
Watch me bleed out as the present slips away
If my heart had wings, who knows where I′d be?
Moving with the sand and the salt of the sea.

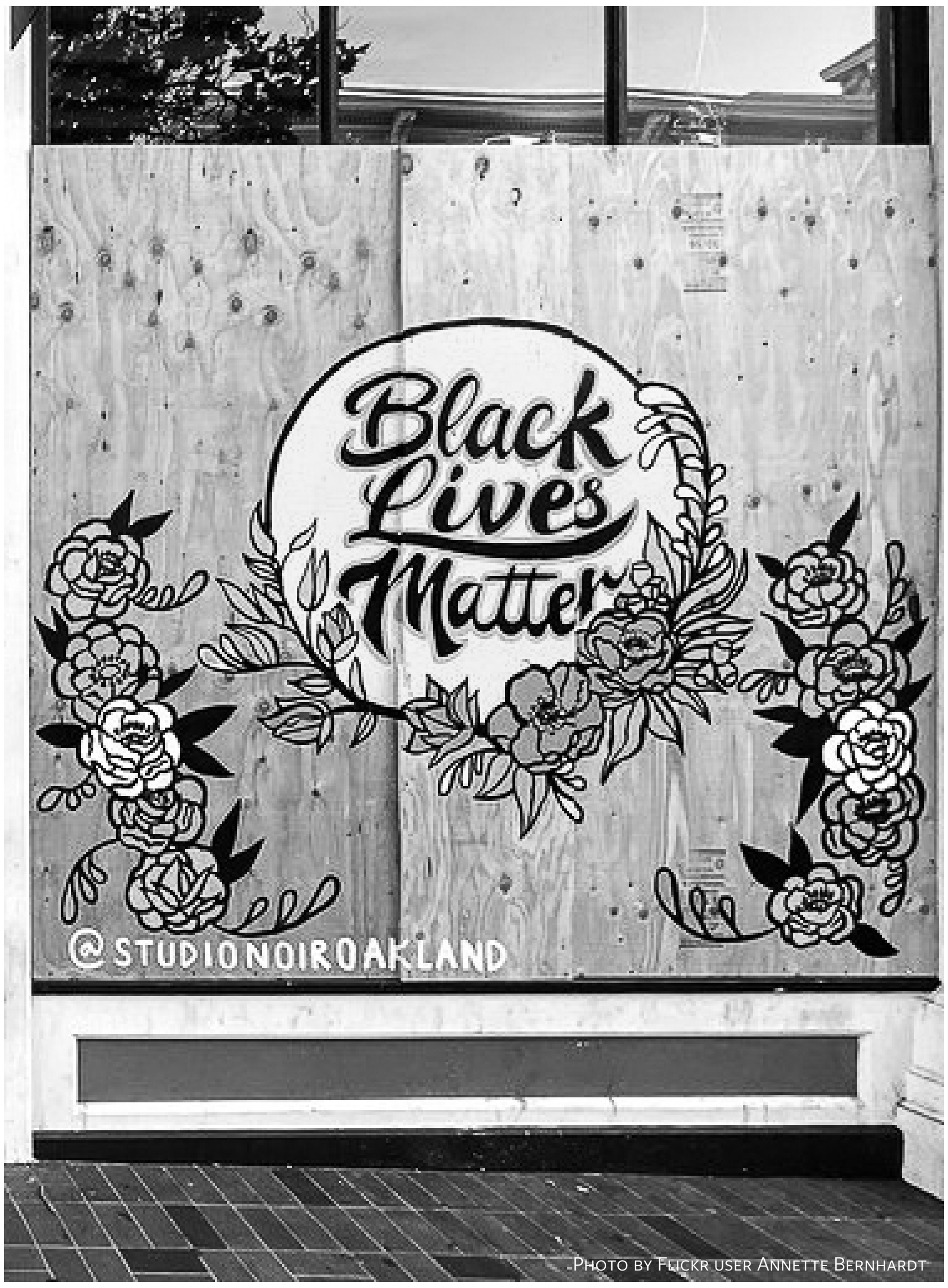


Photo by Flickr user Annette Bernhardt

‘Berg football grounded by loss

Loss against Ursinus Bears is a much-needed reality check for program

By Matt Polverino
Staff Writer

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Photo by Joe Romano ‘23

The football team celebrating during the game on Sept. 26, 2021.

Last Saturday, Sept. 18, the Muhlenberg College football team suffered their first regular-season loss against the Ursinus College Bears. The game came down to the final minutes and the Mules were unable to prevail, resulting in a crushing defeat 42-35. This is their first non-playoff loss since 2018 against Johns Hopkins University— a 14 regular-season game winning streak. The Mules dropped significant ranking in the national DIII polls, from the eighth ranked team to the 24th.

Running back Ethan Brader ‘23 expressed the team’s initial reactions to their loss against Ursinus. “This hit the team hard. For me in particular, it just left a bad taste in my mouth. It did not sit well with me or most of the guys for the next week, but this definitely motivated us to work even hard[er] and to be more prepared than our opponents. The effort was there, we just needed to execute and stay constant. There were too many ups and downs,” he said.

Heading into the bulk of their Centennial Conference matchups, the group needs to scratch and claw if they want a chance at another conference championship. The Mules’ head coach, Nate Milne, still stands with immense belief in his team. “The key for us is to be very process-oriented and stay true to the course,” said Milne.

Milne was very specific on where the team needed to be stronger, “focus on fundamentals. I think we need to have a bit better focus in practice, and more attention to detail in order to be successful,” he said.

Along with Milne, Brader felt that the team was “practicing too lackadaisical with little focus and made too many mistakes. We didn’t have too sharp of practices the week before and it translated to how we played.”

At the team’s first practice the Monday following the loss, Coach Milne’s message to his team was “10 percent of life is what happens to you and 90 percent is how you respond,” Milne said. “I told them that we need to make the most of each moment since it was taken away from us back in 2020.”

Milne’s players were on the same page. Defensive captain Nicolas Sirico ‘22 expressed, “We’re never as good as we think we are and we’re never as bad as we think we are. Obviously, we’re not the exact same team as we were in 2018-19. However, we have some returning guys, but we have lots of new faces in the locker room and we have to focus on how we can improve day in and day out.”

Sirico emphasized what his coach has been reiterating all along. “We just need to focus ourselves on how we can improve every single day and take it game by game. We’re trying to go 1-0 every single week. Our sport, we only play once a week [compared to] other sports you play 2-3 times a week. We need to win everyday at practice and when Saturday game day hits,” said Sirico.

“We just have to stick together as a team and stay constant. Our biggest thing is just to focus on the little things; that’s what we lacked in the game against Ursinus. We need to dial those in during practice and perfect them to the best of our abilities,” said Brader.

With nine games remaining in the regular season, the Mules have put the loss behind them and have all their focus on the present.

The team recovered with a 23-0 victory over the McDaniel College Green Terror the following week, Sept. 25. “It was a great bounce back. It was exactly what we were looking for,” Sirico said. The team looks to continue this newfound form when they travel to compete against the Gettysburg College Bullets on Oct. 2.

‘Berg announces Weikert winner

By Josh Botel
Contibuting Writer

Muhlenberg athletic achievements not only honor on-field performances of student-athletes but also their accolades in the classroom. Track and field thrower, Elek Ferency ‘23 won the Sidney G. Weikert Sophomore Athlete of the Year Award. The young star received the award at halftime of the Mules football game against Ursinus College on Saturday, Sept. 18. The award was presented to him by Athletic Director Lynn Tubman and College President Kathleen Harring.

The award was named after Weikert who served as the former associate director of admissions at Muhlenberg. It was established in 1973 by the Muhlenberg College Alumni Association in his honor.

Luca Colestock ‘22, member of the wrestling team, was the last recipient of the award in 2020.

When asked about this accomplishment Ferency said, “Well, I was surprised. Honestly, I had not heard of the award before. I had a meeting with my coach and [the] athletic director. I was very excited. They explained how the award was selected and that it had been given out for a couple of decades now.”

Ferency was honored that the Muhlenberg community chose to give him this award. “I think that it is incredible that it does not only focus on your athletic success but also what you do in the community and what you do as a student. It is great to hear that. Getting the recognition for the hard work you put in at school is always nice,” he said.

Receiving this award is tremendous, but juggling both athletics and academics can be demanding.“ Once this semester starts and

See **Weikert** page 11

Muhlenberg

Photo By Louis Cocco ‘23

Elek Ferency ‘23 was recently awarded the Sidney G. Weikert Sophomore Athlete of the Year Award.

Women's cross-country sprint up in rankings

Team climbs into seventh in recent Metro region rankings after a strong showing at Haverford's Main Line Invitational

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The women's cross country team huddling up before the big race.

After a great showing at the Haverford College's Main Line Invitational, the Mules have jumped up to seventh place in the recent Metro region rankings. The only Division III teams to finish ahead of 'Berg at the Invitational were Haverford College and Elizabethtown College.

This is looking to be a special season for the Mules who, like all schools, are coming back after almost a year and a half off because of the pandemic. Abigail Dalton '22, who ran an 18-minute in the women's three-mile race and placed 26th overall at the recent invitational, has relished being back in action while also being sentimental about her final season.

"It's exciting to be able to get back to cross-country after so long. And, now that we are all at Muhlenberg, it's easier to be closer to the team," Dalton said. "It's also a little bittersweet knowing my third season will be my last."

Teammate Adrienne Ellison '23, who placed 62nd overall with a time of 21:15.3 minutes in the three-mile race, had used the time away from school to get ready for this season. "During the pandemic, I was able to find my love for running again and that is showing in my performance," she said. "It is definitely nerve-racking getting on the line for the first time since freshman year but once the gun goes off, I just have to trust my training."

For newcomer Lauren House '25, who ran a 21:29-minute three-mile time and placed 63rd overall at the meet, being a member of this team has been a very special experience while also getting adjusted to college life.

"For me, the best part of college athletics has been getting to be a part of such a great team and have super supportive teammates. We are all always there to help one another through difficult workouts and push each other to do our best during races," House said. "While it's been a little difficult to adjust to the practices and amount of work, it has also been super fun to have a team that is always pushing me to do my best and to keep improving."

This team has really shown out this year, performing to their potential and skill with good placements overall as a team and really putting the team first. "I think everyone ran with guts," said Dalton.

"Nobody was feeling their best that day, so I'm really proud of how they pushed themselves in order to achieve such an impressive result," she said.

The team ran their hearts out and the results showed just how strong their potential is this year. "I think that we've all done a really good job at being super consistent at practice and showing up everyday and being ready to work hard," said House. "We also have great captains this season who have really helped to motivate us all going into each race and always support us to do our best."

Ellison has seen the attitude of the team and how they hold accountability for each other. "I would say we all have a very positive attitude about this season and being a small group of girls has made us closer and really push each other in races," she said. "We have just been focusing on one meet at a time and it seems to be working out well for us."

Obviously, it's very tough to keep this up for any team, but the Mules are ready for the challenge. "We just need to keep focusing on pushing ourselves, encouraging each other, and having fun at the same time," said Dalton. "I think it's also important to take care of our health and make sure we are getting enough rest to keep our immune systems strong."

Ellison and House echo this sentiment. "I think we need to continue to stay focused on one workout at a time and one race at a time and the results will show," said Ellison. "I am confident we are going to continue moving up in the rankings throughout the season."

"I think as long as we all stay consistent in our training and working together the way we have been so far, we will definitely be able to continue performing as well as we are. I'm super excited to see how we do in future races," said House.

The Mules look to keep this hot start going at the Paul Short Run on Oct. 1, hosted by Lehigh University.

From **Weikert** page 10

the sports season gets going, the best thing to do is to know your schedule and make a plan to tackle both," Ferency said.

Looking to the upcoming track and field season, Ferency is very excited to get back to competition. His first year he did not have an outdoor season and last year the team only held activities outdoors.

Ferency has big goals and aspirations for the upcoming season. "I'd really like to win the conference in both indoor weight and shotput and set the school records. In outdoor, my goals are to win the hammer and shotput and try to move up the school ranking list, eventually capturing all the school records," he said.

This track and field season is one to look forward to because they have not had a full indoor and outdoor season since the 2018-19 school year.

That reality hasn't stopped Ferency from earning several awards, including two medals at the 2021 Centennial Conference Outdoor Championships, a silver medal at the 2020 Centennial Conference indoor meet and with this new award, he adds to his growing collection.

From **Frisbee** page 12

because when they are waiting for their games to start, they are getting to know their teammates better and even bonding with the other Frisbee teams. The Squirrels traditionally host their own annual Frisbee tournament right here in Allentown. It is usually the first tournament of the season and is during alumni weekend.

In the spring season, the Squirrels are split into a men's team and a women's team, but still practice as a whole group. Towards the back end of the spring semester, there are sectional and regional competitions, and if either team were to perform very well at those, there is a national competition. The men's team will eye that national competition this year as they came close to it in 2018, making it to regionals.

While you might catch the Flying Squirrels practicing or playing in a tournament on the turf field, there is also a great chance you might see them throwing the Frisbee around at the Burkholder Quadrangle, next to Victor's Lament or on the chapel lawn.

The team is very close knit. They have an ample amount of barbecues, bonding events and even have a special interest house, unofficially called the "Frisbee house" where the team will meet up before tournaments, review game footage and hang out.

For Ethan Lynch '22, the Frisbee house leader in charge of maintaining the team's special interest status, shed light on the process. "One of the big criteria for the school is how are we going to best use the house to best benefit the team. The way we do that is by community for members of the team. The doors are always open for people to come and socialize," he said.

The team also bonds by playing assassin, an intricate version of tag with safe zones and objects. As Citron describes, "If you were carrying a Frisbee on you, that is a safe item. That means you are safe [and can't be tagged]. Everyone has a target and someone that is going for them. So you have to try and get everyone else out while other people are trying to get you out. And it's kind of a last person standing situation." The game has turned the whole campus into a tournament of wits and patience while allowing the Squirrels to build fellowship.

Herbst encourages any Muhlenberg student who is looking to stay active and meet new people to reach out to anyone on the team.

"I've met some of my closest friends and now housemates through this team and I can't imagine my college experience without it," said Herbst.

Additional reporting by Tom Hiller '23

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Meet the Flying Squirrels

With over 100 new signups, Muhlenberg's Frisbee team is more popular than ever

The Frisbee team practicing for their next game (above) and tabling at the activities fair (below).

Photo By Caleb Wakefield '25

By Jack Carroll
Staff Writer

With the College having around 1,900 undergraduates on campus, this small liberal arts school has few opportunities for non-student athletes to play sports in a competitive atmosphere. However, the ultimate Frisbee team at 'Berg, better known as the "Flying Squirrels," was one of the most popular clubs a couple of weeks ago at the fall activities fair. The team had about 100 new sign-ups ranging from students who have only thrown a Frisbee at a barbecue or high school gym class to students who have played for most of their life.

Co-captain Brandon Herbst '22 believes that the return to normalcy after COVID-19 might have something to do with the team's interest this semester. Herbst stated, "I think a lot of people were looking forward to finally getting out of the house and interacting with each other again. I'm proud that the Frisbee team is a place where we can facilitate that. We are always open and welcoming to new members."

Joining the Flying Squirrels doesn't require previous skill in the sport as there are no tryouts. Fellow captain Ethan Citron '23 describes how he and many other players have been recruited by the team. "I joined the team on my orientation weekend. One of our best tactics that seems to work is getting people during orientation. So anyone who is involved in that process [orientation weekend] or people that happen to move in early."

"Ultimate Frisbee is kind of a niche sport… There's a whole team, there's a whole sports component to it." Citron said. "You see stuff like basketball and football on TV, you get a little bit of that exposure even if you're not a fan. It's one of those things where you might just see it. Ultimate is still very up and coming. So a lot of people don't know anything about the game."

Photo by Joe Romano '23

The team spends most of the fall covering the fundamentals of throwing, catching, basic offensive and defensive formations as well as the rules of the game. Along with Herbst and Citron, the team has four other captains who all serve as a resource to the team, especially the newer players.

Newcomer Maddie Davidson '25 mentioned her expectations of college by throwing the Frisbee around. "I think every little thing I've ever visualized about college I've seen or thought about someone throwing a Frisbee on a lawn. So when I came and I saw the team on the lawn, I was unbelievably compelled to join and see what the fuss was about. And so I started playing on the [Burkholder Quadrangle] lawn. And then I somehow made my way into the group chat where they announced practices."

The captains and a couple members from the Lehigh Valley who have been playing the sport for the past 10 years lead practices twice a week on the football turf. The practices typically run about two hours, where the team will start by warming up and reviewing a new concept. Then, the team will go through a number of drills to reinforce certain teaching points before they scrimmage for the last hour of practice.

In the fall season, the Flying Squirrels travel to a series of tournaments hosted by local colleges on various weekends. These tournaments are sanctioned by USA Ultimate and are usually an all-day event. Most players mentioned that these tournaments are also a social event

See **Frisbee** page 11

Coming up in SPORTS

October 2, 2021

Men's Soccer

Muhlenberg vs Haverford

Sat, Oct. 2 @ 12:00 p.m.
Haverford, Pa.

Women's Tennis

Muhlenberg vs Marywood

Sat, Oct. 2 @ 11:00 a.m.
Scranton, Pa.

Volleyball

Muhlenberg vs McDaniel

Sat, Oct. 2 @ 12:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Women's Cross Country

Muhlenberg vs Lehigh

Sat, Oct. 2 @ 2:30 p.m.
Bethlehem, Pa.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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NEWS

Brianna Kovit '23 explores the financial and physical accessibility of laundry on campus. **read more on page 4**

ARTS & CULTURE

Johnny Veglia '24 recaps a masked student music recital of voice and violin. **read more on page 7**

OP/ED

Joey Marcacci '23 expressed frustration at the white queer hegemony on campus.
read more on page 8

SPORTS

Tom Hiller '23 profiles the future of the tennis teams after a strong fall start.
read more on page 12

Car crashes into Benfer Hall

Despite drastic damage to the exterior of the building, no one was harmed.

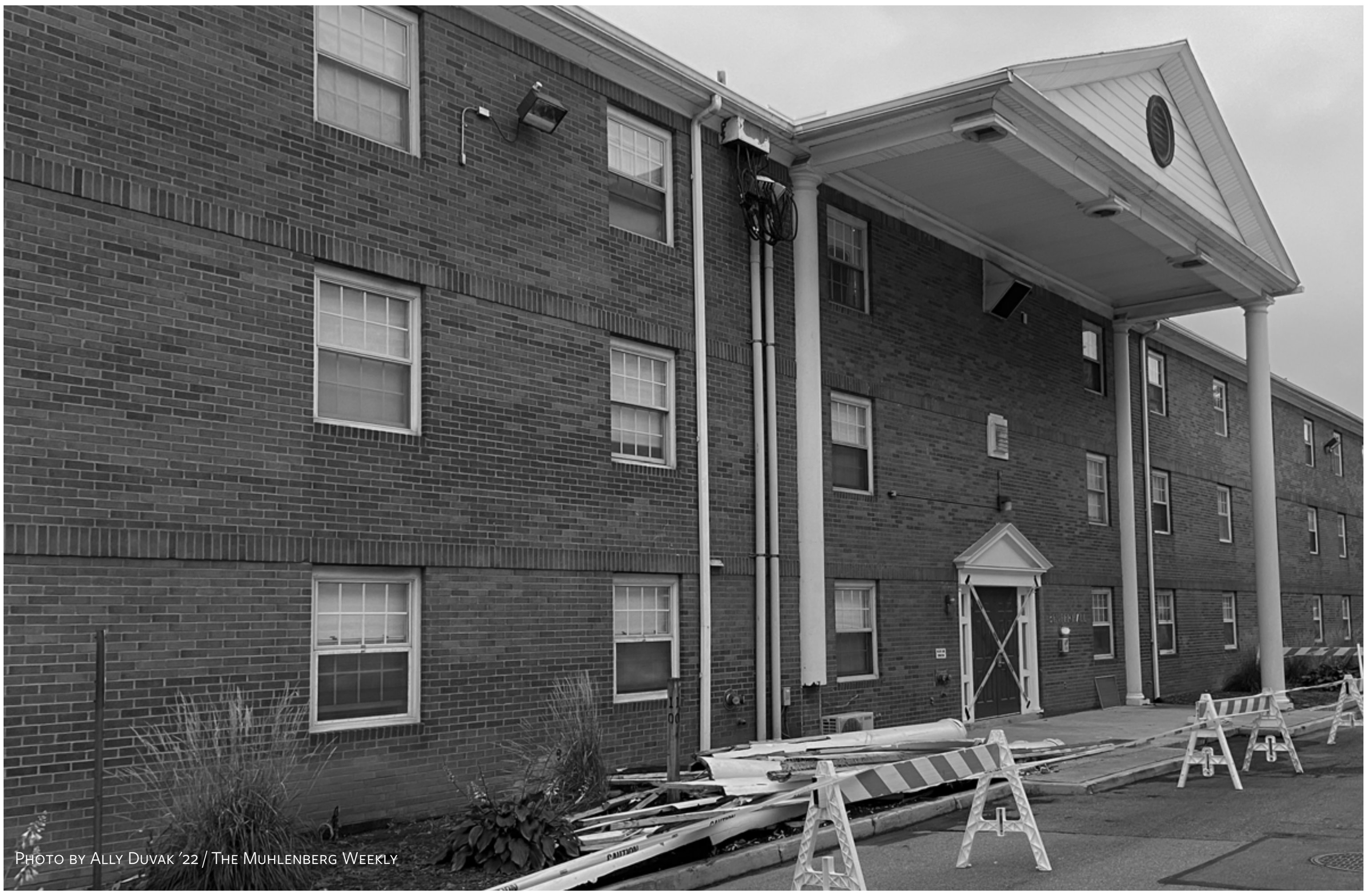

Photo by Ally Duvak '22 / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The pillars of Benfer were damaged by a moving vehicle.

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

In the earliest hours of the morning on Sunday Oct. 3, residents of Benfer Hall were greeted with a loud noise. Whether they were woken from sleep or up late socializing, various residents reported being shocked by the volume of the sound.

"I heard a loud bang that resembled the sound of a car hitting another car," reported Zach Merlino '24.

But the damage was greater than a simple fender bender. According to Phoebe Unger '24, the impact "literally felt like an earthquake." Evelyn Carlin '24 recalled the same, stating that she and her roommate "were just hanging out until we heard an insanely loud crash. It almost sounded like there was a mini earthquake!" This was because a car had, in fact, crashed into something – not another car, as Merlino had suspected, but the iconic exterior pillars of Benfer Hall.

"I was walking back to my suite and I noticed that all the pillars were on the ground and I noticed people," an anonymous student source recalled. Merlino had a similar experience when he looked out his window and saw "three posts knocked into the street. Everyone was kind of just in shock as to how someone could actually manage to hit the posts. There was a lot of speculation as to whether the car backed through the posts or actually pulled into one then backed into the others."

> **"It almost sounded like there was a mini earthquake."**

By the time she was able to make it to the scene, Carlin stated that "People were saying that they saw a car hit the pillar, but a car was nowhere in sight; therefore, it was a hit and run."

An anonymous student reported that campus police arrived on the scene "not only because the pillars fell but because people were apparently stealing pieces from the pillars that had fallen." It was Merlino who called the campus safety office, stating that he "felt [he] had to call 'Campo' because it was a mess, so [he] told 'Campo' someone drove into Benfer and 'Campo' came."

The Allentown Fire Department was also on the scene. According to a statement that the Housing and Residence Life office shared via email immediately following the accident, "There was a vehicle accident involving the Benfer columns early Sunday morning. There were no injuries, and the Allentown Fire Department responded. They have confirmed that the columns were not weight bearing, which means that the building is structurally sound and has been deemed safe."

As of Monday evening, according to the Office of Communications, "In order to facilitate repairs, the Benfer drive between Trexler Pavilion and Benfer Hall will be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic." Furthermore, residents of Benfer were informed by Housing and Residence Life about restricted access to various facilities, including the front entrance, laundry, and parking directly in front of the residence hall.

Though speculation has been made amongst students regarding the cause of the accident, Brian Fidati, director and chief of campus safety stated that, "This investigation is open and ongoing, with no further information available at this time."

No injuries have since been reported in the wake of this accident. Residents of Benfer report being shaken but unharmed. Carlin, whose birthday festivities were interrupted by the crash, stated that "[As] crazy of an accident as it was, I am so glad no one got hurt, and I am even more glad that the pillar wasn't a substantial part of holding up Benfer Hall, otherwise, a lot of us would have gotten hurt."

In the words of Unger: "It was definitely a moment we will all never forget."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Cydney Wilson
Editor-In-Chief
Katherine Dickey
Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor
Or-El Ankori
Layout Editor
Brianna Kovit
Copy Editor
Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor
Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor
Mustafa Hall
Op/Ed Editor
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A&C Editor
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Alex Blum
Sports Editor
Tom Hiller
Asst. Sports Editor
Ayden Levine
Photo Editor
Sara Vigneri
Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

09/27/2021
Robertson Hall: Report of fondling, individuals spoken to, investigation to continue.
Prosser: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Liberty Street: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

09/28/2021
Benfer Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
On Campus Location: Report of theft of one way sign, no suspects at this time.

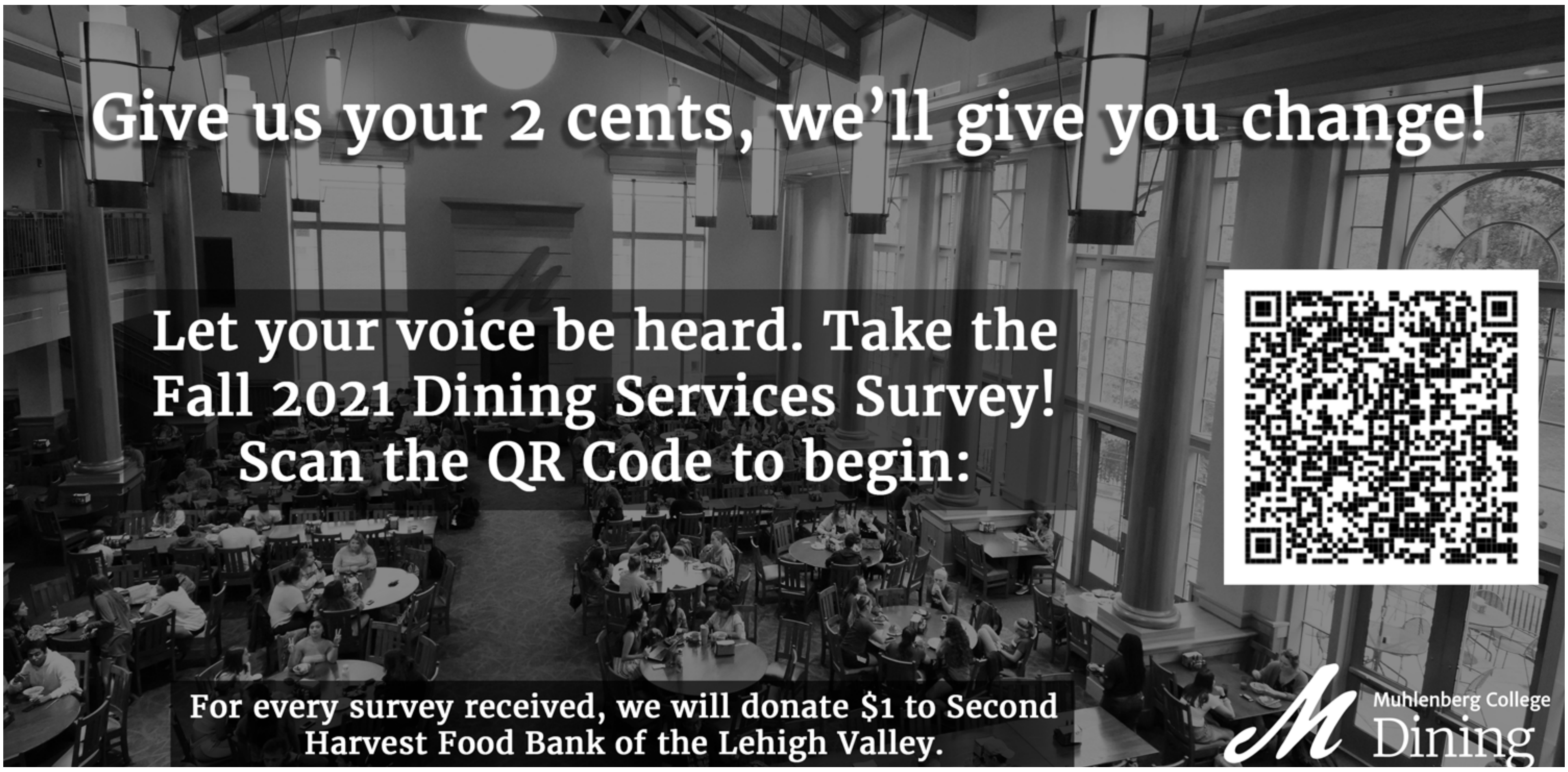
09/29/2021
Faculty/Staff Lot: Report of vehicle illegally parked in lot for several days, vehicle booted and later towed.
Chew Street: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.

09/30/2021
Walz/Brown: Report of suspicious person, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Moyer Hall: Report of found laptop, unknown to whom item belongs, laptop placed in lost and found locker.

10/01/2021
M.I.L.E House: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.

10/02/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of odor of marijuana, individuals identified and spoken to, paraphernalia brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker, referred to Dean of Students.
Albright Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, Officers could not reset, Plant Operations notified to respond, no further incident.
Albright Street: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset.

10/03/2021
Benfer Hall: Report of hit and run causing damage to pillars, Allentown Police Department and Allentown Fire Department responded, Housing and Residence Life notified, no suspects at this time, investigation to continue.
Prosser Hall: Report of disorderly conduct, individual spoken to, investigation to continue.


Give us your 2 cents, we'll give you change!
Let your voice be heard. Take the Fall 2021 Dining Services Survey! Scan the QR Code to begin:
For every survey received, we will donate $1 to Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley.
Muhlenberg College Dining

'Berg hosts Allentown mayoral debate

Photo by Ben Eber '23/The Muhlenberg Office of Communications

From left to right: Matt Tuerk (D), Cydney Wilson '23, Emma Mueller '22, Tim Ramos (R)

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

Students and faculty gathered in the Seegers Union event space on Oct. 4 to watch Allentown's two major party candidates for mayor engage in a spirited—yet civil—debate. The candidates consisted of Democrat Matt Tuerk and Republican Tim Ramos. Each candidate was given two minutes to answer each posed question with a minute-long rebuttal.

The event was moderated by Cydney Wilson '23 and Emma Mueller '22, presidents of College Democrats and College Republicans, respectively. Wilson outlined the process of organizing the event saying, "Emma and I worked together beginning in August to make this event happen. It required meetings with both campaigns, various stakeholders at the College and each other over the course of many weeks. Seeing this event come together was incredibly meaningful, as local politics are so important."

Mueller felt the same way, saying, "The process was a little stressful. I have never planned something this large before and working with campaigns, at any level, isn't easy. However, it was something both Cydney and I were passionate about. All the hard work was well worth it in the end."

During the debate, Tuerk and Ramos agreed on many topics. However, they deviated in their backgrounds and fields of experience. As a self-described political outsider, Tuerk spent his career working in economics and job creation. But Ramos, a native to the city and product of the Allentown school system, holds his expertise in aiding at-risk youth and developing small businesses through various organizations. This is Ramos' second time running for the position and Tuerk's first.

A primary talking point during the event was the role that policing should play in combating crime in Allentown. Tuerk expressed that the high crime rates can be lessened through neighborhood development and community health. "My belief is that when you have those strong neighborhoods—when you have opportunities for our youth—it really gives them an alternative to the things that can get them into trouble."

Ramos cited community policing as a crucial aspect in his agenda to reduce crime. He noted that, "When you have those relationships [with police officers], it changes the dynamic when you're talking about issues of crime in our community."

The housing crisis in Allentown and the greater Lehigh Valley was also a point of interest for the candidates. Ramos conveyed his desire to convert old industrial sites into affordable housing. While Ramos did not dismiss the prospect of new developments, he critiqued their practicality. "I don't think that our community is ready to pay $1,500 a month for a one-bedroom apartment and that's not a reality for what is in demand by the people who live in the city of Allentown," he stated.

On this issue of housing, Tuerk cited his connections in the economic sphere as a basis for his housing plan. He plans to build new housing in partnership with regional organizations that he already has relationships with. "[This is] why I ran in the Democratic primary, against our incumbent," Tuerk noted. "I felt like we needed better leadership in the city of Allentown to, not just create jobs, but to create these housing opportunities."

Both contenders expressed dissatisfaction with the city's current administration's level of communication surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Tuerk proposed investing more heavily in Allentown's public health infrastructure. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of receiving the vaccine in order to set an example for the community. Ramos, who shared that he is unvaccinated but currently consulting with his doctor about receiving it, also shared his COVID-19 policy. He suggested increased testing availability for low-income areas with little access to them.

On the topic of education, Ramos proposed the idea of a mayor's council on education and stressed that parents of students in the district need to be more engaged and involved. He voiced the need to find "where there's deficits [in the school district] and meet the needs of our young people."

Tuerk believes that there is currently a lack of engagement between the mayor and superintendent of the Allentown school district. He desires to foster a meaningful relationship with the superintendent through a regular, weekly dialogue. He asserted that "The city of Allentown's total administration needs to be an active ally to the Allentown school district in its efforts to deliver on its mission of educating our kids."

Wilson and Mueller both spoke about the importance of Muhlenberg students being involved in local politics. Mueller said, "The 'Muhlen-bubble' is real. I think many students think that they just live here nine months out of the year and the decisions made in town hall are irrelevant to us. Many students are registered to vote on campus... Even for the students that don't vote here, it is important to be in touch with the city around you. A lot of feedback I got from the debate was that students learned something new, or even learned 'so much' and it was interesting. Hearing that, makes me think the event was a success. The goal was to educate and inform."

Wilson echoed this sentiment, saying, "It is crucial that Muhlenberg students are aware of our location in Allentown, and that we work to foster involvement, politically and otherwise, in the community."

The debate proved to be a beneficial resource for many students. Hannah Verdun '24 voiced that "The debate was a great look into the future plans for Allentown and it was refreshing to hear that there's a focus on positive change in multiple aspects across [the city]."

See **Debate** page 11

Documentary comes to 'Berg in the face of resurgence of anti-Asian hate

By Katherine Dickey
Managing Editor

In 1982, a young Chinese-American man named Vincent Chin was brutally murdered by two white American autoworkers. Anti-Japanese sentiment was at an all time high due to competition in the auto industry, and this surge of anti-Asian racism was credited with motivating Chin's killing. This tragic event brought about a new era of Asian-American activism and the popularization of the term "Asian-American" itself. Curtis Chin was a child in Detroit who knew the Chins as family friends, and as an adult decided to return to the story that led to so much unrest in his youth.

On Oct. 4, Curtis Chin came to Muhlenberg for a screening of and talkback about his 2009 film "Vincent Who?" The event was opened with an introduction by facilitators Irene Chien, Ph.D., assistant professor of media and communication, and Purvi Parikh, Ph.D., assistant professor of religion studies, followed by the screening of the film. The documentary follows interviews with Asian-American activists, lawyers and community members to tell the story of Vincent Chin's killing, the trial of his killers (Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz) and the outpouring of activism that followed a manslaughter plea deal. To date, neither Nitz nor Ebens have spent a day in jail for Vincent Chin's murder. The film detailed a perception that in the wake of the killers' escape from meaningful consequences, Asian-Americans across ethnicities banded together to protest for harsher consequences, leading to the popularization of a pan-Asian-American identity and a new legacy of activism.

During the talkback, Curtis Chin spoke about a deliberate choice to show only Asian-American commentators from ranging ethnic backgrounds and life experiences, due to their underrepresentation in media at large.

When asked about the model minority myth, Chin said, "It was a term that was developed in the 1960s, first used as a way

See **Documentary** page 10

Photo by Joe Romano '23/Muhlenberg Office of Communications

DETROIT
-IS
EVERYBODY

Curtis Chin speaking to the audience and answering questions during the talkback.

Successful on-campus flu vaccine clinic caters to student needs

Hundreds of Muhlenberg community members received flu shots in the Life Sports Center.

By Aileen Bergin
Contributing Writer

Last Wednesday, Sept. 29, Muhlenberg hosted an on-campus flu vaccine clinic in the Life Sports Center. Four pharmacists from Weis Markets were set up in the Solar Corridor to administer the shot to recipients. With over 350 shots given to Muhlenberg faculty, staff and students over the course of five hours, the clinic turned out to be an accommodating option for students looking to fulfill this year's flu shot requirement.

At the clinic, students expressed gratitude for the on-campus clinic. Patrick McDonald '23 acknowledged that there are other local options that give the flu shot but shared that the Muhlenberg clinic "definitely makes it a lot easier for me [to get the vaccine] because I don't have a car."

Sara Fink '23 and Amanda Bloom '23 also spoke to the convenience of Muhlenberg's clinic. Both stated that they otherwise would have gotten the shot at home over fall break but opted for the campus clinic instead. "As soon I saw [the school's email about the clinic], I checked it out and printed out the paperwork, just because I really wanted to get one as soon as possible," said Fink.

In the midst of the COVID pandemic and an outbreak of the infamous "Muhlenplague," concerns for the student body's health and wellness seem dire. One pharmacist at the clinic stressed the importance of the vaccine, "It's just really important for everyone to get out and get their flu vaccine, and I know COVID is mainly taking over the vaccinations lately, but it's also equally important to get your flu vaccine because people are still dying of the flu every year."

While, for most, getting the flu shot is a relatively simple way to prevent contracting the flu, for others, the shot raises its own concerns. McDonald, who has an allergy to eggs, shared that he was "slightly worried" about the potential negative reaction to the vaccine. He consulted his doctor, who advised he still get the vaccine and wait briefly in the clinic after receiving it out of an abundance of caution. "At least if I do have a [reaction] here, the hospital is only three minutes away and I'm sure the people here could drive me."

Despite the short wait after his shot, McDonald noted that it took him less than two minutes from his arrival at the Life Sports Center to get the vaccine. Other students who arrived right after the dismissal of a busy class block were less lucky. "Lines are annoying but at the same time, I don't have class until later and I've completed all my work for now. So, [it's] worth it," said Fink. "I think it's important for [the College] to provide this service, because you don't know how many people aren't able to get it because of issues with their insurance or timing."

According to the College's communications about the clinic, most insurance is accepted with no copay and students without insurance can pay $20 out-of-pocket for the shot, cash only. The clinic's accessibility was praised by Bloom, who said, "It shows that Muhlenberg cares about us as students and as people."

According to one of the event organizers, Muhlenberg's Director of Employment & Benefits Erin Murray, "This is the first year we've done a combined [clinic] with students." She compared the clinic's popularity to the approximately 200 shots given in previous years at faculty-only clinics. "Hopefully we don't run out," she stated earnestly. Murray shared plans to run another on-campus clinic that was announced shortly after.

Next Wednesday, Oct. 13, a second on-campus flu shot clinic will take place in the Solar Corridor of the Life Sports Center from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. Although no appointment is necessary, those hoping to attend should remember to bring either $20 in cash, if uninsured, or both their prescription and insurance cards.

Photo from @muhlenbergcollege on Instagram

Riley Wexler '24 getting his flu shot.

Students want improvements in laundry accessibility

By Brianna Kovit
Copy Editor

When students move into college, they are often thrust into independent living for the first time in their lives. Depending on where they live, students may be cooking their own meals or cleaning their own bathrooms. But all students, regardless of residence hall, are all responsible for one key aspect of solo living—doing their own laundry.

As stated in the instructional photos pasted to every washing machine on Muhlenberg's campus, there are four steps in doing laundry here: load clothes, add detergent, select cycle and pay. Payment, which is typically in the form of coins or a 'Berg Bucks swipe on a student's ID, could be on the brink of a change. According to a Student Government Association meeting on Sept. 22, the College is working to switch to an exclusively 'Berg Bucks system of payment. Such a move would create a more accessible laundry experience; 'Berg Bucks are multi-purpose and save students the hassle of searching for $3 in coins each time they do laundry.

"After having lived in the M.I.L.E. [Muhlenberg Independent Living Experience] area my junior and now my senior year, using quarters for laundry has definitely been an inconvenience. Switching to 'Berg Bucks and being able to swipe my ID would definitely make paying for laundry more convenient," said Emily Burns '22.

While the major on-campus residential buildings (Walz, Prosser, Brown, Taylor, Martin Luther (ML), East, Benfer, 2201 Chew, Village) provide students with the choice to pay in either coins or 'Berg Bucks, M.I.L.E. properties do not. Students living in the M.I.L.E. area need to travel to one of five M.I.L.E. facilities to do their laundry and all of them are coin only.

Some students have decided to use off-campus laundromat services in order to save the time and money that goes towards the laundry facilities in the M.I.L.E. area.

"While living in the M.I.L.E. area, needing to get in my car and go over a block away to do laundry and needing to bring $3 in quarters has become too much of a hassle. Instead, this semester I have opted to go every couple of weeks to the laundromat off campus where not only are the machines larger, but it's less expensive as well," said Burns.

"Definitely pushing it to 'Berg Bucks expands [accessibility]... especially because it's not like these machines can take dollar bills or something like that... Will there be challenges or barriers or things that we need to look at once this happens? Absolutely. There is no plan that is ever perfect. But, if we want to make it more accessible, if we want to take a step further, I think one of the first steps is getting away from the quarters," said Student Government Association President Zaire Carter '22.

Talk of a potential switch to an exclusively 'Berg Bucks-run laundry system raises questions about the general accessibility of laundry on campus. Several residential buildings—Benfer, Brown, Prosser and Walz Halls, as well as the M.I.L.E. area—have laundry facilities that are inaccessible to residents who cannot utilize stairs.

Photo by Ayden Levine '23/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Katherine Conlon '24 and Tom Hiller '23

See **Laundry** page 10

> "I write to find out what I am thinking. I write to find out who I am. I write to understand things."
>
> - Julia Alvarez

En El Tiempo De Las Mariposas debuts

Photo by Maddi Whiting '22/ Muhlenberg Theater & Dance Department

From left to right: Alejandra Cepeda Bátiz '23, Maria Isabel Castillo '23, and Alaila Florian '22

By Kailie Strutin
Contributing Writer

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, the 2021-2022 departmental season was kicked off with "En El Tiempo De Las Mariposas" (In The Time of the Butterflies). This show was a staged reading performed in the black box theatre in the Center for the Arts. "Mariposas" is a play by Caridad Svich based on the novel by Julia Alvarez.

The play tells the tale of "the lives of three brave and brilliant women revolutionaries and their equally brave sister. Patria, Dedé, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal, the daughters of Enrique Mirabal Fernandez and Mercedes Reyes Camilo, [who] grew up in the Dominican Republic during the dictatorship of President Rafael Leónidas Trujillo" (excerpted from the program). This specific production was performed as a staged reading which means there was no set, minimal costumes and the performers had their scripts on stage.

When describing the impact of a staged reading, assistant director Elizabeth Muriel '23 stated, "I think staged readings are super impactful because you have to focus on the words. There is no set, no flashy costumes. Just good acting and an important story."

The stage was set up with 10 stools. Eight for actors and two for the musicians who play the drums and the violin. As the lights dimmed the actors walked down the stairs, onto the stage and took their places on the stools. What ensued was a moving story of four sisters and their tumultuous attempt at survival in the Dominican Republic under dictator Trujillo.

Alexandra Rivers '21 played the role of Older Dedé, "the surviving member of the four Mirabal sisters, also known as the revolutionary mariposas. She is strong, wise and has dedicated her life to telling the stories of her sisters," shared Rivers.

> **"The cast left their hearts on the stage and everyone in the audience could feel it."**

Muriel shared, "It is so important to see stories featuring powerful women of color. As Old Dedé says in the show, to get to tell a story is a privilege. And to get to tell one about powerful Latinx women and work with such an amazingly talented and diverse group of people was truly humbling."

Rivers shared how the show impacted her, saying, "This is my final show at Muhlenberg, and I've been saying all week that it is such a perfect one to go out on. There's something so incredibly powerful about being in a space made up of almost entirely Latinx performers—there's an understanding and power to our marginalized voices coming together and sharing a story about our community. This show has just made me feel so proud. Proud to be Latina, proud to be sharing this story, proud to work with such an incredible group of performers... just so, so grateful to be a part of this."

"The story of the Mirabal sisters is an important story for audiences to experience and I think the cast portrayed these characters and the story beautifully," says audience member Carlie Nieman '23.

One of the most touching moments in the show is after the audience learns of the passing of the three sisters. Each actor lights a candle that is the color of their garment and the lights are dimmed. The cast lines up in front of their stools while the lights are dark and the candles illuminate the faces of the three that passed. They then blow out their candles to end the show leaving us in total darkness. The audience was left with chills.

Maya Rabinowitz '24 said, "The cast left their hearts on the stage and everyone in the audience could feel it."

Rivers spoke about the impact of the show on Muhlenberg's community, "Growing up in America, our history lessons focus so largely on the stories of white men. So, bringing this story of these strong, badass Latina women to this community is so powerful to me. Especially since these sisters rose to prominence in the 40s, 50s, 60s— a time when women and their impacts were still often overlooked. It's so important that our community (and beyond) gets to hear the power behind the story of these brave, Latina women and see that we have been making important impacts far beyond what most people around here have heard about. We're here. We're strong. We're important. We come from a long, powerful line of women."

Students form group to make and show original work

By Ian Clark
Contributing Writer

Photo by Sebastian Mora/REM Collective

Danny Milkis '23, Connor McCully '22, Eli Taylor-Kerman '21 and Lorenzo Antigua '24.

A struggle many artists face, especially in the fallout of the pandemic, is how to make it big. In artistic fields that have become so obsessed with big names and recognizable brands, how is one supposed to find their big break? Realizing this issue, and dealing with an artistic slump brought by the pandemic, Thomas Riley '22 and Sebastian Mora, a senior at New York University, created the Riley Emmaus Mora (REM) Collective, an organization where members have the ability to "collaborate and make our own original work and produce, share and showcase it. And being able to just make our own opportunities," as described by Mora.

Riley and Mora made sure to highlight the guiding mission of the Collective: that instead of "waiting for the phone to ring," members of the Collective are "the ones who make the call," Riley said. "Stop waiting for your career to be based off of if other people want you on their team, and be the one building those teams." He was recounting advice a professor gave him, which now serves as a mantra of sorts for the Collective.

The REM Collective started with Riley and Mora, high school classmates, meeting up over the pandemic to catch up on their lives. Mora talked about how "Things were kind of just slowing down. Or, we felt like there was something that was missing for us artistically, creatively and just in general… in a time where art was limited or where art was prohibited to be made because of the given circumstances [the COVID-19 pandemic]." From there, the two devised a plan to heal the artistic wound caused by the pandemic. The foundation of a collective of artists to work collaboratively and creatively emerged. They decided to branch out from their theatre backgrounds to film, music and dance and to provide an example for others to do the same.

Riley comments, "It's very difficult to find those opportunities unless you're already established or you're going to school for it or you have connections. It felt like the gate was closed… in terms of being able to try new things, and we saw this as an avenue where if we're making it ourselves, who's to stop us from trying something new? Who's to stop a first-time director from directing?… Who's to stop somebody who's never written before [from] producing their own written works? So we've been able to use the Collective as a way to deepen our own work as actors, but also try your hand at new things and discover new passions."

As a group of artists working in diverse media, the REM Collective aspires to bring in work from a variety of different art forms. At the current moment, they predominantly work in film but they have been branching out with projects like Danny Milkis' '23 "Sanctorum," an original operetta produced on the Muhlenberg campus by Milkis and other members of the Collective.

"The Collective offered me an outlet and an opportunity to present a piece that was born over quarantine," said Milkis. "The dedication, inspiration and passion of the artists in this organization were what allowed this piece to blossom."

What's next for the REM Collective? Auditions to join the Collective are open until this Friday, Oct. 8, so if this sounds interesting, act fast! Along with auditions closing on Oct. 8, the teaser trailer for Mora's "not-so-short film," the Collective's biggest project yet, a forty-five minute contemporary horror film called "Sisters," will also be released. "Sisters" is slated for a late October or early November release, so be on the lookout. Another big project from the Collective, Riley's "Pillow Fort," is the group's first time outsourcing actors for a project and is currently in the midst of production and filming.

Even with those projects on the horizon, there is still so much more to look forward to from the REM Collective. To stay updated, and find information on how to audition, check out their social media pages, @officialremcollective on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. To see their earlier projects check out REM Collective on YouTube.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show comes back

By Danny Milkis
A&C Editor

Every Tuesday night at 11 p.m., The Red Door Cafe is filled with the sounds of singing, dancing, excitement and a little bit of "Time Warp," as a long-standing student festival rehearses to encapsulate the spirit of Halloween weekend on campus.

Cast member Gianna Carnevalino '23 explained the mechanics of the production and specifically, how the experience differs from a production that would take place under the jurisdiction of the Muhlenberg theatre association or the department of theatre & dance.

"It's people lip syncing and dancing to the movie in the background [and] we have lots of props and costumes, but the movie is behind you so you have context," says Carnevalino. "Just a very nice community of people you'd never expect to work well together, but we're all there for each other and we're just a community with very welcoming people." She also states that a draw factor is also the slew of classic, well-known songs, including "Time Warp," "Hot Patootie" and "Eddie's Teddy."

The decision-making body of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" consists of Joshua Myers '22, Cailyn Murray '23 and Chloe Selover '22, all of whom are responsible for coordinating rehearsals and scheduling the performance.

"We have two types of normal rehearsals," explained Myers. "Tuesdays is with the entire club, and [Murray and Sandy McInerney '23] teach/run through choreography for group numbers, and we also cover basic blocking with the ensemble. Thursdays, we do blocking with the leads because there's not a lot of scenes with the ensemble. Besides blocking, we'll do minor choreo stuff."

Myers explained that, in addition to rehearsals with the cast, the executive team intermittently assigns production-side duties, usually relating to acting as pieces of the set or having props. Any duties that still remain will be assigned right before the company starts running the production in full costume.

When asked how long they've been involved with "Rocky," executive board and cast member McInerney replied, "That's a very good question… I guess this is my second year, since COVID kinda threw us in a loop. Now, I'm one of the presidents and that's kind of terrifying."

Some of the aforementioned "terror" seems to stem from the fact that the gap-year in performances meant that a lot of "Rocky" veterans had graduated, and the steady stream of long-held tradition was left solely to the classes of 2022 and 2023. McInerney explained that the school has a supply of scripts and props that have been used for a number of years, which provides a bit of structure for the tradition as it continues year after year.

Carnevalino added that there has been an uplifting amount of interest from younger students, stating that "Somewhere between 15 and 20 newbies joined this semester, including a lot of freshmen and sophomores who wanted to do it but never had the opportunity to."

Myers added, "Eventually, the closer we are to October 29, we'll start really running the show all together, on either day [Tuesday or Thursday], just to make sure we have it in our muscle memory."

"'Rocky' opens on October 29," shared McInerney. "The doors open at 11 p.m. in the Red Door! Bring all of your friends!"

Music department's first (eight minute) student recital

BY JOHNNY VEGLIA
ASST. A&C EDITOR

PHOTO BY AYDEN LEVINE '23/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Jakob Kidd '22 performing "Cantabile."

The music department hosted the first student recital and its first in-person event of the academic year on Wednesday, Sept. 29. While the department attempted to adapt the recital for a virtual platform in the past, it's not the same experience as being in a shared space with other performers and audience members. The event took place in the Recital Hall of the Baker Center for the Arts, and guests who visited were greeted with a program that listed the two performers and their accompanists for the evening. The performance only included the two pieces, as the mask mandate affected those willing to perform.

Abigail Schechter '24 performed "Amarilli, mia bella," composed by Giulio Caccini (1550-1618). The beautiful rendition of the piece was accompanied by Jeremy DerMovsesian '25 on the piano. For Schechter, the performance was an opportunity to perform in person after a year of virtual events and activities. The artist helped children over the summer find their own spotlight, but it was time for her to be the center of attention. Schechter stated, "Since COVID, I haven't been able to have that experience for myself, so I really wanted to jump on the opportunity to get up there and sing in front of people. We had a virtual recital last semester, but it didn't exactly go according to plan. There were a lot of technical issues and things that went wrong, and [this recital] seemed like a pretty seamless way to get back into in-person programming."

The performance also included a hypnotic presentation of "Cantabile" played by Jakob Kidd '22, a violinist. Niccolo Paganini's (1782-1840) piece also featured collaborative pianist Vincent Trovato, instructor and staff accompanist.

The performance ended after only eight minutes and the two featurettes. The audience members of students, family and friends conversed with the student performers in the Baker Center for the Arts after the performance. Isabelle Peters '24 attended the performance and said, "It was really nice to be able to see musicians perform in person again, and they did a phenomenal job."

The night's lineup of performers was dramatically affected by the mask mandate required during the recital. Schechter had to wear her mask during the entire piece and while it was difficult, her experience with the women's choir on campus prepared her for singing with a facial covering. Schechter mentioned, "I know in talking to other people, that was kind of a factor in them performing or not. For me, I've been in the women's choir since fall of last year, so I've been learning for a year and a half how to sing with a mask on. So even though it's not ideal, I've learned so much about how to do it."

The Muhlenberg College COVID-19 Student Policy for the 2021/2022 academic year mentioned, "During dress rehearsals and/or performances sponsored by the music, theatre or dance department, individuals will not be required to wear masks, if they are vaccinated, at the discretion of the supervising faculty member teaching the course or directing the performance. This policy applies to singing, instrument playing, acting and dancing. Any individual participating in the dress rehearsal and/or performance may continue to wear their mask if they wish." Despite this allowance, the music faculty requested performers remain masked at this show. Past performances this year have already allowed for countless artists to perform without facial coverings. For example, the performance for Charlie Richter and Curtis Dretsch on Sept. 18 saw performers with no masks.

The mask mandate did influence Anna Bobok '23, a vocalist, who planned to sing during the recital. Bobok mentioned, "The piece I planned to sing at the student recital required a lot of rapid breathing to be able to belt lots of notes in my upper range and keep up with the tempo. I had to work on it masked in my voice lessons, but to get in all those breaths in time for each entrance, I had to slow down the tempo significantly."

Bobok also needed to showcase a variety of emotions and aspects with her performance as it was from a musical. Bobok, needing to block over half of her face, felt the facial restriction would detract from the piece and overall experience. "I was operating under the assumption that I would be able to perform without a mask like the performance groups, especially since it was just me. So when the email was sent, I knew I would have to wait for a change in policy to perform this specific song," Bobok declared.

Two other sources, who were supposed to perform, declined to comment on the situation.

Ted Conner, Ph.D., professor of music, responded to the First Student Recital by stating, "Since the beginning of the pandemic, the music department has prioritized the health and safety of Muhlenberg students, faculty and staff. We continue to believe in the importance of this principle." Conner did not dive into the logistics of the mask mandate for the performances or if future recitals will require facial coverings.

Performance art is back in business for students who choose to partake. Schechter did have a positive experience despite the difficulties of breathing and singing while wearing a mask. "Just being able to look out and see that there's people listening to me sing... It felt very different than looking at a Zoom screen or tiny little squares, half of them with their cameras turned off. Being able to see live people kind of helped improve my performance as well," stated Schechter.

PHOTO BY AYDEN LEVINE '23/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The Rocky Horror Picture Show cast during one of their weekly Tuesday rehearsals at 11:00 in the Red Doors.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS
Editorial

Making Time for Me(als)

By Larissa Dowling
Contributing Writer

As I sit in the dining hall in my last year at Muhlenberg College, I can't help but wonder, whatever happened to the new normal that we all talked about during quarantine? I'm thinking back to when we were all home. We saw so many issues within our society come to light as we were all stuck in our own homes with the world shut down around us. And we talked about them. We posted about them. We discussed them in our online Zoom classes. There was so much that we wanted to change when we got back to school.

Well, here we are— back at school. Back on campus for most of us. And I'm looking around wondering, where'd that energy go? One thing in particular has really been on my mind lately as I rush around campus trying to get everything accomplished. Eating. Yes, the thing everyone seems to forget to do here. I remember so many conversations about self-care and leaving time to eat when we were home. When we as students experienced time away from the unbearable weight of capitalism, we were reminded of the importance of taking care of our own bodies. We found time—no—we made time for ourselves. We made time for our bodies to rest. We made time for our minds to relax, even with the extreme pressure and stress that was felt by many in the height of the pandemic. We made time for ourselves to eat.

But now, I overhear students talking about how they forgot to eat lunch. How they haven't eaten anything since 7 a.m. and now it's 7 p.m. How yesterday all they ate were granola bars and some pasta from Mule Express because they had to go to classes and meetings all day and didn't have time to eat. How dinner was their first meal all day. We are not built to live like this. We cannot continue to abuse our bodies in this way as a result of capitalism infringing itself back into our lives. We know how to take care of ourselves, so why aren't we doing it?

We need to re-teach ourselves how to balance all the stressors of being a college student, still living in a worldwide pandemic, working—for many of us—and being living, breathing, functioning humans. And when we see someone who we love neglecting the latter identity, we need to support them, remind them, and show them that there is a way to balance everything all at once. We can lean on each other. After all, isn't that what communities are for?

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

White Gays, Hear This

By Joey Marcacci
Contributing Writer

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

Ted Eytan / Werkforpeace.org

Muhlenberg has a thriving gay community, and campus life as a queer person is pretty good... if you're white.

To be clear about the intention of this piece, it is crucial to acknowledge that the journey of coming out that all queer folk must take is not being belittled. Queer identity and gender identity are a personal and sometimes painful journeys that queer people need to have because of our heteronormative society. I am not delegitimizing the struggle that all queer people face during their coming out. I am instead pointing out how queer identity as a white person does not equal the same oppression as queer people of color face on this campus and in this country.

Muhlenberg College is a predominantly white institution. This does not necessarily mean that people of color are outwardly discriminated against or rejected, but tokenization and insensibility to narrative are all too real. Here, white people are enabled and set up for success. So, when white gays try to make themselves seem as oppressed as the queer people of color on this campus, that narrative is harmful and toxic. White queer people will brag about how they are illegal in 70 countries and force their "wokeness" on social media. This all feels too sinister, and it is really time to shut up.

As a gay, Central Asian-American, cis-man, white gays do not make me feel as supported or accepted on this campus as they would like to think they do. I am a person of color; however, I benefit from light-skinned privilege. Black and brown queer folk on this campus likely feel even more ostracized because of this rhetoric at our predominantly white institution that is controlled by white queer people.

So, white gays, it's time to check your privilege and notice when you are taking up space that you shouldn't be because the queer people of color on this campus have had enough.

REASONS TO JOIN...
THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
YOU WANT TO:
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RECORD MUHLENBERG HISTORY
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Paige's Page
MOTEL
Los Angeles
Two Sisters Open a Bakery on Pico
A Dream Slowly Rising
HISTORIC

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Contributing Writer

Hi! Welcome to the first edition of Paige's Page. I am Paige Weisburg ‘23 and I'm here to listen to your questions about all things and give you advice. Now, you may be wondering, “Paige, what makes you qualified to give me advice?” That is a totally reasonable question, to which I would tell you— I am absolutely not qualified to give you any advice but I'm going to anyway. I have a lot of opinions that I want to share. I like to think that I've figured out this college thing and I love to help people in any way that I can.

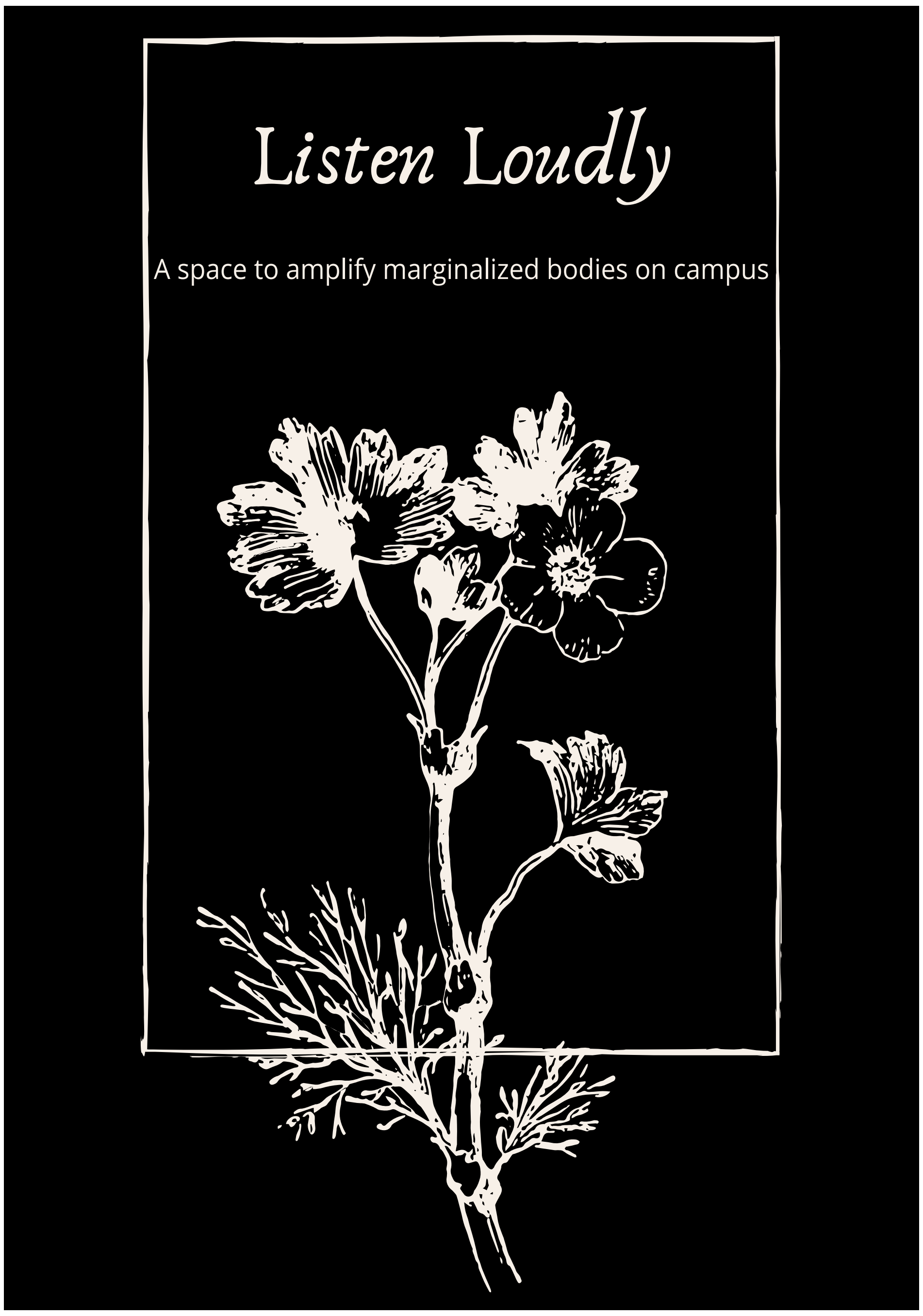
Here is a little bit about me: I am from New Jersey just like (probably) you, I am a political science major and a women's and gender studies minor, I am the president of Hillel, the risk manager for Delta Zeta sorority and a Student Government Association representative. I love TV shows, podcasts, music, cheese, coffee, knitting, makeup and fashion. I love inconveniencing my friends to stop and have conversations with everyone I know walking through Seegers. I love Shabbat dinners at Hillel, and I love analyzing my friend's birth charts (I'm a Sagittarius sun, Leo rising and a Scorpio moon). I'm excited to share the fun little thoughts in my brain with you. On to my FIRST question!

“Hi Paige! I am super excited to be back on campus with things being (mostly) back to normal. I have been very nervous to be social again in the midst of COVID and I want to get back out there. I just don't really know where to start. Help me!”

Hey, bestie! It is totally normal to be nervous about getting back out there in the middle of a pandemic. I was also super worried about this coming into the semester. Being social is scary and being around people you don't know very well can also be intimidating. I have been coping with this by throwing myself into every activity that comes my way. I usually won't say no if someone wants to grab a meal with me, hang out with me or introduce me to their friends. But I know that doesn't work for everyone. When I came back in the spring, I found myself being hidden in my room after a year of craving social interaction. Everything was so exhausting and even being around my friends felt like a chore. But, now I will do anything I can to stay out of my room; I even love being in a classroom now. I also felt like I needed something fun and new to do which is why I'm writing this article you are reading right now. Maybe try something like that. Join a club that you wouldn't normally join that sparks some of your interests. Go in with some of your friends and try to make some more! Say hi to that person that you have taken several classes for your major with that you have never spoken to. That's how I've made some of my best friends. Ask your friends to go on walks around campus while it's still warm out. Take it slow! This will take time! It is difficult and you are so brave for trying to push yourself out of your comfort zone.

If you found this at all helpful to you, YAY that was my goal. If you didn't and have other questions you want answered, please submit them. If you hated this and also me please feel free to let me know, I love my fans!

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespage-question. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree.


Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

Gay

By Sydney Baron
Staff Writer

Sometimes it feels like the rainbow I am
Is too many colors.

I'm not all the colors every day, you know.
Red lipstick
Orange crop top
Yellow backpack
Green collared golf shirt
Blue sequins
Purple floral button-down

That's a lot of things to be all in one day

But yet when others look at my rainbow
I can't help but see that they're trapped
In some fabricated complexity

Yes I am all the colors
Yes it's real, yes it's true
But some days I'm red
And some days I'm blue!

It's as simple as that
And why can't they see
That choosing a spectrum
Just means that I'm free
I finally have all the colors I need to paint for you all
The person I see

So hey, hi, yes
I make art, I hate cops
And I tutor chem

I love dinos and stickers
I'm Sydo

Mules hoops a month away from opener

Muhlenberg men's basketball is primed for first home game in almost two years.

By Noah Brill
Senior Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The basketball team spring 2020.

One month removed from the start of the 2021-22 season, the pieces are starting to fall into place for the Muhlenberg men's basketball team. After a year and a half hiatus and the unfortunate departures of two classes, the group has come together to form a cohesive unit. Since their arrival on campus in late August, the team has worked hard to be as effective as they possibly can be both on and off the court.

Although members of both the freshmen and sophomore classes have never played a minute of collegiate basketball, team members are working hard to make up for lost time, and will be in good company as many of their counterparts throughout Division III canceled play during the 2020-21 season due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Guard Matt Kempter '23 explained that communication seems to be one of the team's strongest assets. "As a group, we are in constant contact. Whether it's in our team GroupMe, texting or eating together, the team is always in some sort of communication."

For the team's juniors and seniors, the start of the season is bittersweet. While it represents an opportunity to return to play for the first time since losing to Swarthmore College, 65-62, in the Centennial Conference tournament in February 2020, it also is the seniors' last opportunity to play for a conference championship.

Moreover, it remains to be seen how the upperclassmen will handle stepping into leadership roles after largely holding less prominent roles the last time they wore their Muhlenberg jerseys.

As a result of the unusually high rate of turnover, older members of the team have put on a full court press to make sure the group's newer members feel comfortable. "As a team, we have worked hard to create a great environment for the newer guys to come in and feel comfortable," said guard Nate Henty Brown '22. "Although we weren't able to play last year, we, upperclassmen, had opportunities to get to know the rest of the now-sophomore class quite well."

Many team members in the class of 2024 used the year off as an opportunity to learn from the team's veterans. "I have to give credit to each of them as I don't think I have ever seen so many questions being asked by our boys as they have tried to soak up as much knowledge/experience as they can get from our upperclassmen," Henty Brown said.

In spite of there not being any live play, those who were on campus were still able to work on their skills together. "We were practicing five or more days a week and almost each and every day we came in with a high-level of intensity focused on getting each person better. This 18-month layoff without any games also allowed the team to focus on other things such as our bodies and injury prevention as well as basketball skill work," said Kempter.

While some may worry that some players might be slow to start the season due to such a long period of inactivity, early indications from the team's practices show that the players are not only rejuvenated, but they are clearly hungry and eager to win.

With the growth of the team's star players complemented by the addition of two promising new classes, there is reason to believe that the team can compete for the top spot within the conference this year.

The Mules will kick off their season on Nov. 5 with a home game against Moravian in Memorial Hall.

Members of the group have expressed optimism about the possibility of continuing their forward momentum, as the group reached the Centennial Conference playoffs for the first time in seven years in 2020.

Henty Brown said, "Expectations are very high this season. I think that a Centennial Conference championship is something that the seniors and juniors have had their eyes on for a couple of years now and we try to make an effort, particularly as upperclassmen, to bring that mindset with us to the gym each time we are there."

From **Laundry** page 4

"We work with students with documented disabilities and [the Office of Disability Services] to individually meet any necessary accommodations for laundry service," said Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Housing & Residence Life Courtney Stephens.

One such accommodation is a weekly outside laundry service. Once a week, a member from Housing and Residence Life picks up laundry from qualifying residents, sends it out to be washed and folded and then the laundry is returned to residents' doors two days later.

"Having to use an outside laundry service does take away some of that personal independence and requires you to rely on others, which can be frustrating. I am glad that this service is provided, and the outside facility folds the clothes much better than I could ever do, yet sometimes it would be helpful to have a fully accessible laundry room that is less difficult for people with physical disabilities to use," said an anonymous student. "Navigating a room with a mobility device can be difficult, and though something is technically accessible, there are a lot of other small factors to keep in mind, such as being able to open the door to the laundry room, being able to move around easily within the laundry space, being able to open the machine doors and then reach in and pull out the clothes. A lot of times, fatigue can play a big factor in completing daily tasks for people with disabilities, and in order to make these facilities truly accessible, many more of these smaller factors should be kept in mind."

Accessibility is something that Muhlenberg will continuously need to evolve with. For now, the universal 'Berg Bucks laundry payment is a start.

From **Documentary** page 3

way to sort of put down Black [people] and Latinos because it was used to say, ′Oh, the Japanese-Americans just came out of internment 10, 20 years ago, and yet they managed to get back on their feet. Yet, you guys can′t get your act together. Why is that?' It was originally used as a term to sort of pit people of color against each other. That is what makes it a suspect term to use."

One student asked about how to combat desensitization to hate crimes and police brutality today, as the media sometimes feels oversaturated with sad stories. Chin answered, "I don′t blame the media because these things are happening. If you think that people are sick of hearing about these cases because of the media, think about being a person of color and liv[ing] these things all the time, every day. We′re not desensitized to it because it′s just a fact of life for us. For certain populations that don′t have to deal with this every day, yeah, they may be sick of it. They might feel like, ′Oh why do I have to hear another one? Oh, this is dumb, you know, move on.' But for some of us, we don′t have that privilege to move on because it is something we deal with every day. It does sometimes feel overwhelming, but we have no choice but to address those things. And so if that makes the rest of society uncomfortable and aware of these things, then so be it. I don′t feel like I have to apologize for it because these things shouldn′t be happening."

"I really enjoyed having an event like this to bring more awareness to the Asian-American community as a whole because we don′t get much traction in the media," said Bethany Qian '25. "I really think that the big reason that Black Lives Matter received so much backlash was because the movement was so big in the first place. I remember when the Stop Anti-Asian Hate [movement] came out, I was like, ′Where′s the media attention? Where′s the support? That was just there, not even a full year ago.′ I think that bringing things like this into conversation is very important for combating racism in general."

"'Vincent Who' was very impactful," said attendee Olivia Thiemann '24. "It's so important for people like Curtis Chin to share the stories that aren't widely known, because not only does it spread the word effectively, it also does it's best to bring justice to those killed in heinous acts. Anti-Asian hate crimes need more attention, and Chin's poignant storytelling is certainly helping bring the subject to proper light."

"I think that the event did what it was supposed to do," said Parikh, "which is to give voice to a member of the Asian community and in particular, the Chinese American community. There were so many great questions that were raised by students. I think the purpose of the film was to bring awareness not just to Vincent Chin, but to anti-Asian racism. You could see the ways in which the questions were engaging with the very issues that we wanted them to engage with."

When asked to give a comment for the Weekly about how he thought the talk went, Curtis Chin answered simply, "A-plus."

Intramural sports are up and running

After a difficult year to play sports safely, intramural sports & recreation are back and in full swing here at 'Berg.

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

With the COVID-19 pandemic taking over the world last year, many things—such as intramural sports—were abandoned. Though the pandemic still lingers, the current fall semester has become an experiment for the College to reintroduce missed activities; clubs such as intramural sports are back and in full swing.

Brad Hackett, director of intramurals and recreation, gave some insight into how intramural sports work and how students can get involved. "There are three different components to intramural recreation here at Muhlenberg: the first is intramural sports, the second are other recreational activities and the third are club sports," said Hackett.

According to Hackett, "In the past half decade or so, intramural sports have gone from a more organized thing of having teams with a schedule, head-to-head matchups and standings to now leaning more towards allowing anyone who's interested in playing that sport that day to show up."

Soccer and volleyball are some of the biggest intramural sports going on this semester as they each attract about 40-60 participants per week (if interested: intramural soccer takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-9:30 p.m. and volleyball takes place from 8:30-10 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

The second component of intramurals at Muhlenberg is other recreational activities. These activities include zumba, 8-9 p.m. on Sundays in the Life Sports Center, and yoga, 6-7 p.m. on Mondays at Hillel.

These activities can vary from week to week, so if you are looking for group activities going on across campus to stay in shape and have fun with your friends, check out the bulletin boards in the Life Sports Center as well as the digital Berg Bulletin and 25Live calendar online. Plus, for these activities, there is no registration needed. And lastly, club sports—these are completely student driven and vary from year to year. As of right now, the only active club sport is ultimate Frisbee.

Ara Ludwig '22, president and co-captain of the ultimate Frisbee club, spoke about how students can get involved with the club, saying, "Students can get involved by simply coming to practice, contacting any one of the captains, or jumping in to throw with us on campus (we typically throw in [Burkholder Quadrangle] or by Victor's [Lament])."

Most students on the team had no experience playing Frisbee before and we are more than willing to help people learn how to throw and play." She also spoke on how the club works as a whole: "The ultimate Frisbee club is competitive. We have tournaments throughout the year that we compete in against other school's ultimate teams. We try to go to around four tournaments a semester and in the spring we have the chance to go to regionals [and] all the way to nationals."

Years ago, there was a very popular ice hockey club, however they were eventually forced to hang up their skates. But now they're trying to start up again, Alex Blum '22, the team manager for the emerging ice hockey club, spoke about their plan: "As of right now, we are working towards becoming competitive in 2022-2023. The club is getting students involved by being open to all those who are interested in the sport. That could be students who have previous experience or simply want to learn the game for the first time. Hopefully, if everything were to go according to plan, we will have a team and be playing competitive hockey against other club teams during the 2022-2023 season."

If anyone is ever interested in starting an active athletic club, reach out to Brad Hackett.

Baseball hits it out of the park with day of community service

'Berg baseball players speak about recent volunteering opportunity with local organization

By Noah Berger
Staff Writer

With the College putting an emphasis on community service for its students, we often hear about all the incredible programs that take place through partnership with the Office of Community Engagement (OCE). The sports teams, too, participate in community service. The Muhlenberg baseball team took their talents off the field to help kids play the sport that they love.

On Sept. 26, the Muhlenberg baseball team volunteered at the Miracle League of The Lehigh Valley. The Miracle League works to allow children with "mental and physical disabilities" to enjoy sports and social activities. Muhlenberg baseball spent the day forming relationships with all the kids and also took on various administrative roles from keeping score to coaching.

Nick Whelan '24, infielder, spoke about his positive experience volunteering with the Miracle League. "My favorite moments of the day were spending time with the kids and helping them enjoy the day playing baseball. [Infielder] Jack Kent '24 and I were partnered up with our kids [for] each game and we had a lot of fun getting to know our new friends."

Photo from @mulesbsb on Instagram

Ben Kollender '23 running home with his new friend.

Donovan Brady `22, pitcher, also talked about the relationship between his team and the Miracle League. "I think the partnership between Miracle League and Muhlenberg baseball was so beneficial because these kids love playing baseball and seeing older kids come and teach you and play with you is just an awesome thing to experience. They enjoyed being out there with us just as much as we did with them."

When reflecting back, Whelan felt positive about how the day went. "I took a lot out of Miracle League day... It was [great] to see how happy these kids are playing the sport I also love to play. These kids were all full of happiness and it really made the day much better," he said.

"A valuable skill I gained while volunteering was being able to adjust to each kid and know that everyone is different. I would say enjoying the little moments and bringing good energy is something that was gained too," Brady said.

Whelan also believes the partnership between 'Berg baseball and the Miracle League is extremely worthwhile. "Coming into Muhlenberg College, I have seen pictures of past players spending time at Miracle League... This has been an event for the baseball team for many years. I think this partnership is very beneficial for our team as well as the Miracle League participants. It really opens up our eyes as a team and it is something we all really love to do."

Infielder Jonathan Suero `24, shared, "After spending the day at the Miracle League, I realized how important it is for both the team and myself to continue doing work to better the community. Even though it was just one day of volunteering, it was clear how much of an impact the team was able to make on the children that we were spending time with."

From **Debate** page 3

Cameron Eaton '23, team leader for voter engagement with the Office of Community Engagement and organizer of the initial Meet the Candidates event, stated that "Events like this are an opportunity to learn more about the city around us and to strengthen our engagement with the community. It was nice to see so many students interested in local politics. It's a trend that I hope continues, as this is where so much of the legislation that affects our everyday lives happens."

President Kathleen Harring, who attended the debate, said, "I really want to lift up Cydney and Emma's leadership in working together to organize and schedule the debate on Muhlenberg's campus. To me, it really provided a model of how we need to work together in order to develop informed and engaged citizens."

The candidates and moderators concluded by encouraging the student body to get out and vote in the election, regardless of party affiliation. The final day to register to vote is Oct. 18 and Election Day is on Nov. 3. In-person voting will be held at Muhlenberg's on-campus polling place in Seegers Union and mail-in ballots can be requested until Oct. 26.

Tennis serves up this fall

Mules men's and women's tennis team open 2021-2022 season early

By Tom Hiller
Asst. Sports Editor

The collective Muhlenberg men's and women's tennis team traveled up to Scranton on Oct. 2 to face off in a non-conference match against the Marywood University Pacers. While this would be the only fall semester match for the men, the women's team was previously victorious on Sept. 25 after a complete sweep of 9-0 against the Cedar Crest College Falcons.

The men were unable to secure a win against the Pacers, ending in a 6-3 loss. Benedict Kohler '23 and Daniel Kantor '22 were the only Mules that captured wins as they teamed up for doubles, 8-1, and individually won in a decisive fashion 6-0 and 6-2, respectively. However, it took until the last singles match for the women to squeeze out a 5-4 victory, the first back-to-back win for the Mules in almost six years.

There is a massive amount of time between now and their spring openers for both the men and women. Newly hired coach David DeLasCasas Kurvink will need much ”time to prepare both teams for the spring fully, and early signs indicate that both teams are heading in the right direction."

Kohler is looking forward to getting right back into the off-season, knowing that this time is crucial for not only himself but his teammates.

"Having lost six players last semester due to them graduating, we are now left with a young team with little match experience. Therefore, in order to prepare for the next game [Apr. 2], we will be playing more doubles and singles practice sets during training as well as working more on shot selection and match strategy," said Kohler.

Photo from @muhlenbergmwtennis on Instagram

The women's tennis team smiling after a big win.

The Mules are much improved so far under DeLasCasas Kurvink, with both teams showing great energy. "So far, he's impressed by the enthusiasm the new members have on the team to improve their game (always attending all the practices as well as some players putting in extra practice on their own)," said Kohler. "In terms of improvements, he wants us to improve our doubles performance since this accounts for three out of nine matches and would also like the players to improve their shot consistency."

For the women, ending the fall "preseason" 2-0 is a massive step forward for the program. Showing the capability to blow other teams out of the water and win those tight matches is an excellent indication that the Mules are attempting to establish a culture built on winning.

> **″Tennis is a unique sport due to the fact that it is an individual sport that has been created into a team event, so having bonding activities like escape rooms or team dinners has really boosted team morale and friendship beyond the court.″**

Caroline Armknecht '22 believes these two matches were great momentum builders going into the off-season. "Our last two wins this fall season have been great about setting a tone for how we want to play in the spring season," said Armknecht. "Having the fall experience of going on the court and grinding out a win really gives our girls confidence that we can do the same this spring. And, it encourages us to keep on working towards a common goal."

Since DeLasCasas Kurvink is the head coach of both programs, it makes sense that he would want both the men and women to grow into a cohesive team. The teams train with each other and DeLasCasas Kurvink has also helped them to bond off the court as well.

"Coach [DeLasCasas] Kurvink has been great at promoting a team mentality and fostering a bond between the women's and the men's teams. One of my favorite things that Coach has implemented was an escape room at the beginning of the season; it really got all the girls [and guys] to work together in a setting other than tennis and made the team mentality stronger," said Armknecht.

Kohler also believes that the increased bonds between both teams are extremely beneficial, saying, "The overall communication between everyone has been a lot better as well, which has resulted in better practices and people being able to prioritize their tennis and schoolwork better."

Both teams will need to compete and grind this winter to continue the program's steady ascent. One thing that will help is the home courts for the Mules are currently being redone, ready for when they step into the spring season.

Armknecht said, "Tennis is a unique sport due to the fact that it is an individual sport that has been created into a team event, so having bonding activities like escape rooms or team dinners has really boosted team morale and friendship beyond the court.

Coming up in SPORTS

Men's Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Swarthmore
Saturday, Oct. 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
Swarthmore, Pa.

Women's Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Swarthmore
Saturday, Oct. 9 @ 4:00 p.m.
Swarthmore, Pa.

Field Hockey

Muhlenberg
vs
Gettysburg
Saturday, Oct. 9 @ 1:00 p.m.
Gettysburg, Pa.

Volleyball

Muhlenberg
vs
Gettysburg
Saturday, Oct. 9 @ 1:00 p.m.
Gettysburg, Pa.

Men's Golf

Muhlenberg
Invitational
Monday, Oct. 11 @ 12:00 p.m.
Lehigh Country Club

Women's Golf

Muhlenberg
Invitational
Monday, Oct. 11 @ 12:00 p.m.
Lehigh Country Club

Men's Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Elizabethtown
Tuesday, Oct. 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
Varsity Field

Women's Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Bryn Mawr
Wednesday, Oct. 13 @ 4:00 p.m.
Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021
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Campus safety event raises questions of community engagement.

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Students participate in improvisational movement workshop.

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OP/ED

Gabriella Morales warns us that we can't go back to normal.

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SPORTS

'Berg football achieves big victory over Johns Hopkins University.

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MUHLENBERG

Graduation at long last

The class of 2020 returned for a weekend of nostalgia and celebration.

Photo by Danny Milkis '23/ Muhlenberg College

Members of the class of 2020 take part in the ceremony at the Life Sports Center Memorial Hall.

By Danny Milkis
Arts & Culture Editor

Fall Break, which took place from Oct. 9-11, usually means that a number of current Muhlenberg students traveled home to reconnect with family and friends. This year, however, the campus was far from empty.

After a sudden, unprecedented end to their undergraduate careers, members of the class of 2020 were unable to enjoy longstanding Muhlenberg traditions which normally take place at the end of their last year. The College hosted a virtual commencement on Oct. 18, 2020, where students were awarded their degrees and listened to the words of commencement speaker Anthony Jack, assistant professor of education at Harvard. However, an in-person celebration was in order, and members of the class were invited back during Fall Break.

The alumni were allowed to invite up to five guests to the graduation ceremony, but only one of those guests was permitted to stay with the graduates for the gala and the brunch. These rules were set in place in accordance with Muhlenberg's Fall 2021 COVID-19 protocols, which state that, "The spread of the Delta variant across the nation has required a masking requirement for any indoor campus spaces (except when eating) and outdoor events with large crowds." Since the gala and the brunch did include opportunities for guests to enjoy food and beverages, proof of vaccination was required in order to enter.

The events of Saturday, Oct. 9 began with opportunities to take tours of the Haas bell tower, as well as a small social function in the Light Lounge. For the main event, roughly 200 members of the Class of 2020 gathered in Memorial Hall of the Life Sports Center on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. to take part in an in-person graduation ceremony. Most came in the caps and gowns they had ordered but never had the chance to don. As Provost Laura Furge read each graduate's name, they were able to walk across the stage and take a photo with President Kathleen Harring.

"I must first acknowledge the significance of being here with you today. 2020 was most definitely a year of disruptions in academia, business and life," stated Benjamin Miles III '13, the ceremony's guest of honor. "Today's celebration is a testament to the administration, faculty and Muhlenberg community at large, who are no less committed to your success given these uncertain times."

Following the graduation proceedings, the College hosted a gala in the Seegers Union Event Space from 8-11 p.m., which was complete with refreshments, dancing and entertainment.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, the Egner Memorial Chapel held a memorial service for professor emeritus of history Dan Wilson, a revered community member and educator whose life's work impacted academia at Muhlenberg over a number of years. Some members of the class of 2020 took their seats alongside Wilson's wife, Carol, and many close family members and friends. The program featured a number of reflections and hymns from Chaplain Janelle Neubauer and those close to Wilson, as well as a performance of John Rutter's "Requiem Aeternam" by members of the Muhlenberg Chamber Choir and chapel organist Drew Lutz-Long.

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking," stated Harring, during her closing remarks of the graduation ceremony. "It can't be changed without changing our thinking. We need to leave behind the expectations that we have. We need to stop, pay attention, evaluate our biases and actively seek out alternative explanations."

Johnny Veglia '24 said, "I think the ceremony went well and allowed for a form of recognition for these deserving students and human beings. I was personally assisting with Cardinal Key Society and making sure family members and other important individuals could find a seat in the gymnasium. I do think some of the seating could have been handled differently, as some family members who needed ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accommodations could not have the experience they desired. I also loved seeing these graduates back on campus and making sure they had the proper sendoff they deserved."

"The weekend provided a lot of closure for me— it was definitely not anything I imagined when I stepped on campus, now, five years ago. I was hoping the turnout would be a little better so I could see more of my friends that I haven't seen since March 2020. But now we all have real jobs or are in grad school and carving out that time was difficult," stated Monique Beaupre '20. "I

See **Graduation** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Sara Vigneri	Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon	Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

10/04/2021
Prosser Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.
Chew Street: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

10/05/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of fire alarm from faulty detector head, Plant Operations notified and responded, system silenced and reset.
Seegers Union: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
Taylor Hall: Report to locate student, unable to locate student, roommate spoken to, no further incident.
Walz Hall: Report of suspicious activity, individuals spoken to, no further incident.

10/07/2021
N. 23rd Street: Report of fire alarm from Co2 detector, residents notified, Allentown Fire Department responded, HRL notified, Plant Operations notified.
Walz Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, Student Health Services notified, no further incident.
Robertson Hall: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset.

10/08/2021
Albright Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Trexler Library: Report of theft of bean bag chair, no suspects at this time, chair later found and returned.
Life Sports Center: Report of sick employee, upon arrival individual refused further treatment or transport.
Life Sports Center: Report of fire alarm from dust, system silenced and reset.

10/09/2021
Hoffman House: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.

10/10/2021
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.

10/11/2021
Albright Street (400 BLK): Report of fire alarm from cooking system silenced and reset.
N. 23rd Street (400 BLK): Report of fire alarm from Co2 detector, Plant Operations responded, no Co2 detected, detector to be replaced.
Tilghman Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Prosser Lot: Report of damage found to College vehicle, no suspects at this time.

Check out what's new at the GQ!
FEATURED FOR A LIMITED TIME:
The Autumn Harvest Grain Bowl
Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS
@BERGDINING

College hosts first Campus Safety Community Night

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

Photo by Ally Duvak '22 / The Muhlenberg College

Students and community members partake in Campus Safety Community Night.

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, lights and music filled the College Green as the first ever Campus Safety Community Night began. Various emergency service vehicles lined the pathway between Seegers Union and the Baker Center for the Arts, drawing eyes. What looked like it might have been an emergency response at first glance turned out to be the opposite as festivities filled the lawn beside Victor's Lament.

A large inflatable obstacle course encouraged students to compete for the fastest time, a long table of free desserts was provided by Dining Services and large speakers loudly played easily recognizable pop hits. Perhaps the most notable attraction was the mechanical bull that even Marti the Mule took a spin on. Cetronia Ambulance Corps, Muhlenberg Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) buses and Muhlenberg Campus Safety had tables where students could talk with members of these organizations, ask questions or even interact with resuscitation dolls.

"EMS and Campus Safety are two organizations that students should really feel comfortable with," explained Giulia Gerschel '23, secretary and member of the Muhlenberg EMS team. "I think the idea of this event is just to get students to know our campus safety officers and to recognize our faces as EMTs [Emergency Medical Technicians] if they ever need it, and also recognize Allentown Police and Cetronia Corps who come to transport patients so that if you are in a situation when you have to call campus safety or EMS, it's a little less daunting."

Colin Burke '24 agreed, stating that he thought this event was important in order to "build stronger ties with our campus safety and other organizations… I think it's better that we get to see them face to face and develop a personal relationship."

"It's important to acknowledge our presence in the larger Allentown community," added Sarah Teitelbaum '22. "I think this event is a great example of that, because we get to interact with so many community leaders who are really just here to support us, even though we're on the Muhlenberg campus."

Yet, in the wake of the fun and community building, there lingers a frightening and undeniable fact: there have been more than 40 shootings in Allentown this year alone, two of which have taken place between the time of Campus Safety Community Night and the publication date of this article. What's more, the Allentown Police Department has faced multiple investigations and lawsuits over the course of the past two years regarding alleged misconduct and cases of police brutality. And in July 2020, mere blocks from Muhlenberg's campus, a cell phone video captured the moment when an Allentown Police Officer knelt on a man's neck outside of St. Luke's Hospital-Sacred Heart on West Chew Street. Just two days after Campus Safety Community Night, on Oct. 15, a shooting took place outside of Leaders of Our Future Learning Center.

"The Allentown Police Department has a designated unit called the Community Outreach Unit. This is a unit with the ability to function with partnering with [sic] community members to work hand in hand with solving issues in the community. Officers in this unit attend and organize events throughout the community. In regards to the obstacle courses and mechanical bull riding, those are activities that bring all factions of together [sic] by simply engaging in conversation and fun behaviors," responded Allentown Police Captain Kyle Pammer when the Weekly reached out for a statement.

According to Pammer, "Shootings and incidents involving guns are on average with prior years," and events like Campus Safety Community Night work toward lessening the frequency of such incidents by stressing "crime prevention strategies and programs the department has in place to be able to report crime or suspicious activity anonymously such as Texttip."

Though Campus Safety Community Night was a lighthearted and successful event, questions linger about much more serious matters. Is community engagement the key to answering the calls to end gun violence and police brutality in Allentown? What else needs to be done?

Student leaders reflect on friendship in new VOICES series

By Cydney Wilson
Editor-in-Chief

Photo by Cydney Wilson '23/ The Muhlenberg College

Muhlenberg College

Moderator Jonathan Lewis '24, Zaire Carter '22 and Robin Chodak '22

Zaire Carter '22 and Robin Chodak '22 filled Miller Forum in Moyer Hall with a spirited dialogue about their accomplishments, challenges and invaluable relationship with one another.

Nour Yousry '23 began the event on Oct. 6, which kicked off the VOICES series, with an introduction. She ended the introduction with, "I ask you all today to open your ears and hearts to a renewal and revival that we will direly need."

Chodak and Carter are both well-known leaders on campus. Some of Chodak's leadership roles include serving as the co-president of the Asian Student Association, vice president of the Men of Color Network, and intern at the Office of Multicultural life. Carter serves as president of the Student Government Association (SGA), president of the Men of Color Network, and a residence hall director. Both have also held a variety of other leadership roles during their four years.

Chodak and Carter met during the Emerging Leaders pre-orientation before officially beginning their first year of college, and both stressed the positive impact that the Office of Multicultural Life has had on their time at 'Berg. Chodak shared, "This guy stands up in the middle of the meeting and is like 'I forgot to bring paper to college…' next thing I know I'm getting breakfast with him."

The two quickly became involved on campus, beginning with the Emerging Leaders Council and the Men of Color Network. They also both applied to be residential advisors in the second semester of their first year, a position which they still serve in today.

Involvement in affinity groups was highly influential for both students. Chodak explained that Men of Color Network was the "biggest achievement of our freshman year." Steven Smith '19 helped found the group with Robin Riley-Casey. Carter explained that, "Steve was a senior and was gonna go off and graduate and he was asking for folks who were part of it to step up and run it after he was leaving. I don't know what inspired me to throw my hat in the ring but I did. We needed a secretary, so I was like 'Oh, I'll ask Robin…' I knew I wanted someone who was not only capable and competent but who was compassionate… I needed someone I could trust."

Today, the Men of Color Network is hugely successful on campus, and has put on events such as barbershop conversations, which are conversations between members of the Network and barbers from the Allentown community. They dis-

See **VOICES** page 4

Arthur Brooks lectures at Muhlenberg College

By Matthew Klinger
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg College
Muhlenberg

Photo by Kristi Morris/Littlewing Studio

Harvard Business Professor Arthur Brooks speaks to Muhlenberg students on political divisions.

Arthur Brooks, a professor at Harvard Business School, gave a lecture at Muhlenberg on Thursday, Oct. 14. Despite having a doctorate in political policy, he has recently taken an interest in neuroscience, specifically studying human happiness. That interest inspired his lecture, “Finding Happiness in Times of COVID.” While Brooks briefly touched on happiness, the focus of his talk was about ending the polarization and division in the United States.

According to Brooks, this trend first started worrying him in 2014 when he was invited to speak at the New Hampshire Freedom Summit, a conservative conference. Two of the speakers were Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, candidates in the 2016 presidential election. After purportedly hearing the same message of “the left is bad and wants to hurt America” from all the candidates, he decided to counter that narrative. When he got on stage he started speaking about how, at the core, people on both sides want the best for the country. After this statement, a woman in the crowd yelled out: “But the Democrats are evil!” It was at that moment that Brooks realized change was needed.

Early on in his lecture, Brooks said, “You can’t solve a problem by thinking harder to solve it in a new way.” After years of trying to find a new way of approaching the issue of polarization, it was in New Hampshire that he found it. When the woman called Democrats evil, she was calling Brooks’ parents evil. He was offended on their behalf despite being politically conservative himself. “You can’t insult someone into agreeing with you,” Brooks said. Instead, Brooks argued that we can be “happy warriors for love” and understand through empathy where people are coming from.

Brooks identifies the root problem of polarization as a failure to effectively communicate. This failure then creates feelings of contempt. “Anger is not the issue. Anger shows that you care. The problem is contempt. Contempt says to the other person, ‘You are worthless,’” Brooks said. The way to stop feelings of contempt? Brooks suggests to “Stop, think and summon up a different emotion.”

Brooks ended his lecture on a practical note, giving five “homework” assignments to decrease polarization. First, “Don’t agree if you don’t. Stand up for your convictions.” Second, “Shut down the outrage industrial complex.” In other words, don’t consume media or listen to politicians who increase hate. “When you hate, somebody profits and it’s not you.” Third, “Look for contempt and run towards it with love. Be the example.” Fourth, whenever the desire to say something hateful comes up, say five positive things first and then say the hateful comment. “Most times you won’t even get to that last comment,” said Brooks. The last piece of advice he gave was to, “Express more gratitude and be more realistic in your expectations of others.” Brooks ended his lecture with a call to be an ambassador for unity and love in a culture of division and hate. “You all have a mission,” Brooks said. He advises that when you leave your dorm room in the morning to remember that “you are now entering mission territory.”

While Brooks attempted to present a positive message, not everyone was happy with the way he presented his ideas. One student, who chose to remain anonymous, found the idea of loving those who hate you particularly difficult. “As a bisexual man, that statement got on my nerves as I cannot find love for those who do not want me to love who I love.”

Florian Hurlbert ‘25 was also unimpressed with the lecture. “I enjoyed the core message but not necessarily the presentations. The concept of meeting disagreement with kindness and understanding instead of hatred and contempt is not a novel idea. I’ve been doing it for years and I didn’t learn it from Brooks.”

From **Graduation** page 3

had to take a day off of work to go. But it was worth it. Hearing my name along with everything I worked so hard for made it all worth it. Catching up with some of my favorite professors and staff made me so happy. I’m glad Muhlenberg gave us a moment to celebrate, even if it was 510 days later!”

“I know that leading up to graduation, a lot of people were saying, ‘I don’t know if I’m going to come. Do we really need another graduation ceremony?’ But in the end, so many of us showed up, and I’m so glad we did,” stated Brooke Weber ‘20. “I think we all not-so-secretly needed this, just a day or two to plop us all back into some version of college life. It was really, really strange to see everyone, because it was a total cut off for a year and a half and then, bam, everyone was back right where we left off. I talked to people I hadn’t spoken to in a year as if we’d just left a midday class and stumbled into each other in GQ. Everyone couldn’t stop saying how weird it was; we all needed to process. But I do feel like it gave us some sense of closure, and I’m really grateful for that. It was really great to reconnect and confirm that, while we’ve all grown and changed in a lot of ways, we haven’t totally lost who we were a year and a half ago.”

From **VOICES** page 3

cuss local issues while the barbers cut the students’ hair. The Network also put on cuffing grams, which was a tabling event where chocolate covered pretzels were sold and students could send them to someone else on campus, hand-delivered with a song and dance by members of the Men of Color Network. This success is largely due to the work of these two remarkable leaders.

Few may know that, while Carter leads SGA today, Chodak spent time in the student group first. While Chodak said he “just didn’t enjoy the environment very much,” he encouraged Carter to join.

Because of their history of compromise and discussion they have been able to work together and hold each other accountable, even in instances where they may disagree.

“Before we were presidents, before we were affinity group leaders… we were pretty good friends first,” said Carter.

Carter and Chodak also offered advice to the audience, and shared things they had learned from each other.

“[Chodak] showed me that to seek help is not a sign of weakness but… actually it’s a sign of strength,” said Carter.

Chodak added, “Don’t feel like you’re not doing enough for yourself or for your community. You being here, especially for the students of color, is already a huge, huge achievement… So many students don’t know your experiences, the places you’ve come from or the challenges your people have faced.”

″…To seek help is not a sign of weakness but… actually it′s a sign of strength.″

Allison Mintz ‘23, who serves on SGA with Carter as the executive secretary and attended the event, said, “Listening to Zaire and Robin′s unwavering support for one another was lovely, it′s great to see such a strong friendship that began at Muhlenberg less than 4 years ago.” She added, “Robin and Zaire′s impacts on this campus both individually and as best friends really speak to the supportive communities students have built for and with one another!”

Following the event, Carter said, ″I am so glad that students were able to come and hear Robin and I discuss our experiences. Not only has Robin been a great partner, a great vice president, a great president, but a phenomenal brother to me. I′ll always cherish our brotherhood. I hope that students can look at our journey together and see that if two crazy, superhero loving, McDonald′s fries loving people can even effect a sliver of change on this campus, then they can too. And they can do even more than we did!”

Chodak added, “I was really glad to share it with someone like Zaire who reminds you that you deserve to be in the room, on the stage, or wherever you want to be.”

Carter shared, “Overall, I′m excited to see the newer leaders emerge on campus and how they will take the work we′ve done and go even further with it. Because that is the only way change happens.″

> "An actor should always let humility outweigh ambition." - Anna Kendrick

Arts Marathon generates record turnout

Photo by Carlie Nieman '23

InAcchord a cappella club performing during the Arts Marathon.

By Curtis Dai
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 15, the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA) kicked off Arts Marathon 2021 in the Fireside Lounge. According to Piper Ackerman '22, the associate coordinator of the event, Arts Marathon is essentially a talent show of various student performances to raise money and awareness for Pathways Housing Services. Pathways Housing Services is keen to solve the problem of homelessness in the Lehigh Valley; the services include pharmaceutical assistance for qualifying prescriptions, benefit enrollment assistance and day to day needs such as various hygiene products.

The Arts Marathon wants to give students a platform to express their artistic creativity, especially first-year students and sophomores. "You can do whatever you want; my friend last year did a tutorial," explained Ackerman. Indeed, the first section of the Marathon is dedicated to allowing students to show their creative talents. The first three hours of the Marathon are exclusively for student-written scripts.

All six famed Muhlenberg a cappella groups performed with passion from 12:30-1:30 a.m. late Friday night/early Saturday morning. The turnout of this event was unlike most others; Parents Plaza has rarely been more crowded on a Friday night. Students enthusiastically cheered for the performers, and the total number of donations across all of the groups easily surpassed $900 by 1 a.m. The crowd celebrated this landmark and cheered on with more music. Friday night is a long-needed stress reliever for the student body; the event on many levels signals the beginning of a long journey back to normalcy. Events like this strengthen the faith of the student body even though the COVID-19 pandemic is long from over.

The second day of the event contained script readings during the first half of the program, in a similar fashion to the first day. At 4:45 p.m., "Chicago," Trina Vega's one-woman-show from Nickelodeon's "Victorious," was performed. The student turnout wasn't as dense as Friday's, partially due to the rainy weather, but the viewers were intrigued. The entertainment to follow included performances from the Mayhem Step Team, Perkulators, the MINT hip hop team, Copacetic Rhythms jazz team, Zumba and more. The last hour of the Marathon concluded with a humorous staged reading, and the participants were allowed to go onstage and read the writer's notes out loud if they were willing to make a small donation. The Marathon ended at 7 p.m., and the final donation count was astounding. Arts Marathon raised $1,343, one of the highest fundraising results in the event's history.

Desmond Reifsnyder '22, the Arts Marathon coordinator, regards this year's Arts Marathon as a tremendous success. He also praised the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA) for its role in this event. Members of the MTA had proactively volunteered to help organise the event, and many stayed for the full duration of the time.

"I believe this is the most we ever made for the Arts Marathon." Reifsnyder also expressed immense joy for the turnout especially considering the unique circumstances we are in. "It is scary to come back to this sort of event, but I could not be happier with how it went."

"My favorite parts of Arts Marathon were singing with my a cappella group, the Chaimonics, and hosting karaoke until 5 a.m.," said Josh Brog '22. "I hope people now associate me as Mr. Karaoke at Muhlenberg."

Aileen Bergin '22 stated, "I was a part of two Arts Marathon performances and had a blast being a part of the event. I think the turnout was the best it's ever been in my time at Muhlenberg, and it felt so special to get to experience the joy of performing in this way again within our community here. It feels great to know that we can come together to raise money for a great cause, all while having fun and celebrating each other's talents."

Radio Riff Off brings back live performnce

By Katherine Dickey
Managing Editor

Seven performers took the stage on Friday, Oct. 15, to inaugurate the College radio station WMUH's third annual Radio Riff Off event in the Red Door Cafe. Six artists competed in front of three judges and no less than 60 audience members for the chance to win a professional recording session at a local Bethlehem studio. Last year's winner of a Zoom version of the same competition also took the stage to showcase her talents.

Curated tunes welcomed the audience to an already bustling Red Door Cafe when the doors opened at 7:30 p.m. The room was occupied by artists and radio hosts alike, munching on mozzarella sticks and chips and salsa provided by Red Door Catering. An electric keyboard, an amp and three mics dominated the stage, framed by two giant speakers on tripod stands. The crowd of audience members trickled in, quickening to a flood as the time neared 8 p.m.

Hosts and radio station representatives Sydney Holliday '23 and Emma Ash '24 opened the event with a promise that all songs would be original to the musicians who performed them, a first for this event. They introduced judges Zeke Timen '22, current DJ and former WMUH music and program director; Gina Sierzega '95, adjunct professor of media and communication; and Matt Molchany of Shards Recording Studio and WDIY's "Tape Swap Radio." Holliday and Ash also outlined the prizes that would be available: a set of WMUH swag for third place, a chance to perform as the opening act of the spring semester WMUH showcase and a gift card for equipment at Amazon for second place and—for the first place winner— a recording session at Molchany's Shards Recording Studio in Bethlehem as well as being the headliner at the aforementioned WMUH showcase. The performer voted by the audience as fan favorite received an encore performance at the Riff Off itself.

Attendee Audrey Taylor '24 said, "It was absolutely incredible to hear everyone perform, and I think that it's such a cool opportunity that they get to actually record their music in a professional studio."

First up to perform was Luke McIntyre '25, who sang his own indie ballad "Speed of Light" and played the guitar, which was met with applause during an instrumental interlude. He was followed by Reema Norford '23, who had her live in-person music debut with her song "Self Defeating," on voice and a guitar. Next was Emily Kirchner '22, who played her song "Bloom" on an amplified ukulele and sang along.

Ash and Holliday then came back with a brief break to thank the audience, prize providers, judges, production team, volunteers, WMUH staff and performers, as well as plugging future WMUH events before allowing the show to continue. Abby Schechter '24 picked up the performances with a simple song about reaching out to loved ones called "Reach Out" on her teal guitar, which she strummed as she sang. Joe Grisanzio '23 followed, accompanied by August Walker '22 on piano. Grisanzio sang a sad ballad of his own, "Now." Last up for the competitors was Julia De Vita '23, who sang "East Coast Ghost," co-written by Isabel Molettieri '23, a breakup

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Artist spotlight on Marin Diddams '22

A senior recital that gives classical voice a modern twist

By Danny Milkis
Arts and Culture Editor

At the end of their last year, graduating music majors are given the opportunity to host a senior recital in the Baker Center for the Arts Recital Hall. This event is often a showcase of the student's work and progress after four years of vocal and/or instrumental training, and features music which is chosen by the performer.

On Nov. 5 at 7 p.m., Marin Diddams '22 plans to hold her senior recital, and she has several surprises planned for the audience.

"The first half has been just a big cultivation of the work that I′ve done with Lauren [Madigan] over the last couple of years," stated Diddams. "I had two voice teachers at Muhlenberg, and I ended up sticking with her for a lot of it. My very first aria came from when I first started studying opera. My first voice teacher presented that to me and I love it. I wanted it to appeal to people who don′t really like that world, though. I wanted them to come and not say, 'This is so boring.'"

Often, classical vocalists will be asked to perform pieces in multiple European languages, and Diddams explained that the first half of her program features music in German, Italian and French. Specifically, she mentioned that she would feature excerpts from "Italienisches Liederbuch," a song cycle by Hugo Wolf that features 46 songs, containing lyrics from one of poet Paul Heyse's anthologies. Diddams described these and other art selections in this half as "cutesy art songs," and that she didn't want any part of her program to feel drawn-out or boring. Her emphasis on comedy was strong, and she explained that there is even a song where the performer sings about having "a one-inch-tall boyfriend."

Having a long-standing passion for musical theatre dating back to her childhood, Diddams explained that the best representation of her career up to this point should also include upbeat selections from Broadway musicals. However, she felt it was important to continue the theme of crafting audience connection to different musical styles, and decided to accompany the music of the second half of the program with various styles of dance.

Diddams explained, "I′m doing a tap number and a hip hop jazz number, which will be hilarious. I′m very excited. The real question is, will I actually be able to maintain my breath for the hip hop number?"

Sammy Reyes, adjunct professor of dance, has been choreographing the dance portions of the performance, and Diddams spoke very highly of his handiwork and expertise, stating that he "really took the material and ran with it."

If given the opportunity to feature additional repertoire at this point, Diddams said that she would choose songs that represent some of her most foundational performances at Muhlenberg or to include music with her family, who are all singers as well.

"It′s fun because my family is pretty much like a living scrapbook," stated Diddams. "Anytime they see me they'll say, 'Remember when you were four and you did this exact thing?' So if I were to do something like reprisals, I wanted to see if I could figure out a way to duet with my mom."

When asked what her post-collegiate plans were, Diddams replied, "I really love comedy, and I actually was recently presented with this opportunity to potentially audition for a comedy group in Amsterdam. I have a ton of family in Holland, so I might go do that. I think honestly, though, my plan is just to move to New York and try. That′s the best thing that I can say, which is just to feed myself, have a place to live and try to sing professionally and try to act professionally."

Photo courtesy of Marin Diddams '22

From **Radio** page 5

song perfect for De Vita's first time showcasing original music. De Vita was accompanied by Luke Poleway '22 on piano.

As votes were counted and the judges deliberated, Renee Audrey '22, last year's Riff Off winner, took to the stage to perform music of her own. She sang a ballad in Spanish and English called "¿Cuándo Vendrás por mí?," a song for domestic violence awareness called "Water My Lilies" and a song about anxiety titled "Sitting in the Bathtub," all on her guitar. She then moved to the piano, where she serenaded the audience with her songs "Clouds are Crying," about being alone in the city during quarantine, and "Mirror, Mirror," the song that won her Riff Off last year, about body image issues and recovery. "Mirror, Mirror" will be released on streaming platforms in mid-November.

Of the night, audience member AnnieRose DiMurro '22 said, "It was really awesome to see all the performers′ original music. I really loved Emily Kirchner′s song, it was so catchy. It was amazing. What a good night."

McIntyre won the 'fan favorite' designation, a title voted on by the audience, and played his song "Montauk Highway" for the encore, during which members of the audience swayed and waved phone flashlights to the beat. The hosts encouraged hand drum-rolling in preparation for each winner's announcement. Third place went to Schechter, second place to Kirchner, and McIntyre won first place and the recording session.

Runner-up Kirchner said, "It was super fun getting to hear everybody′s original music... Everyone here is so talented. I think [my performance] went really well. I was terrified because it was my first time ever performing original songs. But I′m proud of myself."

Winner McIntyre, a first-year student, said, "I′m feeling very thankful. This has become a real home to me. I′m just so grateful to be able to share my music and for people to really enjoy it."

photo by Ayden Levine ′23

First place winner Luke McIntyre ′25, second place winner Emily Kirchner '22, and third place winner Abby Schechter '24.

'Berg creates space to improv and jam

By Johnny Veglia
Asst. Arts and Culture Editor

Photo courtesy of Johnny Veglia '24

Dancers participate in an improvisation jam session.

The world of movement and dance is full of a variety of methods and options for artists, whether it be a formal ballet piece or an energetic dance break during a musical theatre song. Friday, Oct. 15, saw the emergence of an exciting and visceral kind of movement for the Muhlenberg campus with the Movement Improvisation Jam #1 for the fall semester. The event took place from 2:30-4 p.m. and was filled with over 15 participants, including the wonderful Loren Groenendaal and Andy Thierauf. Groenendaal is an adjunct professor of dance and is currently teaching Movement Workshop for students this semester. Thierauf is an adjunct professor of percussion at Kutztown University. Participants of Movement Workshop are required to attend the jam, but the event is open to all members of the theatre and dance department.

Students first met up in the space of the Dance Studio Theatre and were invited to "arrive to their bodies" by whichever means students felt was appropriate. The members then gathered in a circle and were allowed to express their names and comfort levels with touch and other areas of the jam. Before the full movement started, Groenendaal outlined, "A jam session is an informal event in which participants improvise solos, duets and group dances similar to the way a group of jazz musicians might vamp on melodies and chord progressions. There is no set choreography to do. All levels are welcome. Each individual works in their own way with the group."

Students continued to "arrive to their bodies" and then were allowed to partner in duets or trios, or perform solo. The performance then expanded to allow for everyone in the group to work together freely in the space. Groenendaal did not force any means of expression onto the participants and all of their statements were an invitation for participants.

The exciting event included a wonderful percussion and instrumental element as well thanks to Thierauf, an experienced musician based out of Philadelphia, who graced the jam with his musical talents. Thierauf utilized the piano in the space as well as other instruments and even opened these vehicles of sound to members of the jam as well. Students were free to play with them and incorporate them in their ideas of movement. "It was great. I really enjoyed it. I thought everyone was really interesting. There was a lot of interesting movement happening, but I was able to pull from and I feel people were taking cues really well. They were listening to what I was doing and I thought it was a lot of fun and a lot of excitement happening," stated Thierauf.

"The improv jam was so surprising to me," stated Isabelle Peters '24. "I'm not usually comfortable with improvisation, so I was nervous about whether or not I would be able to do it. By the end, I couldn't believe how fast the hour and a half flew by. It was so cool to be surrounded by other students, all letting themselves freely feel the music. I would highly recommend trying it, especially if you just like to move."

"I think it was excellent," Groenendaal continued. "Students were engaged. They were playful; they were relating to the music and each other; they were sharing the space, they were doing things I've taught them in class and going beyond class. There were people who were not my students who came and they added novelty and diversity and I really like that because it pushes the group that feels a little bit like it was starting to build a feeling of community in the class and now we must extend an envelope more. Expand and integrate new people into this temporary community and that's a really beautiful feeling for me."

The in-person experience was new for both students and Groenendaal. Groenendaal did host two jam experiences in the spring semester, but they utilized Zoom with an in-person component and vice versa. "This is the first fully in-person jam at Muhlenberg that I have hosted. I have not heard of a movement jam at Muhlenberg prior to starting here."

Shelby Mejia '24 mentioned, "The jam session was such a blast! It was my first time going to one so I didn't know what to expect. The experience was very positive. It was so exciting to get to collaborate with people that I haven't danced with before because we take different classes. One thing I really appreciated was our live accompanist Thierauf who provided inspiration in everyone's movements by varying the music between an assortment of genres."

The jam allows for people to share in their experiences and also with space to open up to the group and be safe within your own boundaries. The next movement jam is on Friday, Dec. 3, from 4-5:30 p.m.

Gianna Carnevalino '23 mentioned, "It was a lot of fun and I'm very glad that [Groenendaal] requires it, but I'm very glad that they also open it up to everyone else to come and collaborate. I'm glad that there is going to be another one in December. I am very excited to do more of that kind of openness and to collaborate with other people."

Campus Safety Notes continued

10/12/2021
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Moyer Hall: Report of lock down drill.
Trexler Library: Report of vandalism to desk, no suspects this time.
Trexler Library: Report of found phone, owner later claimed item.
Seegers Union: Report of no contact order violation, individuals spoken to.

10/13/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
Off-Campus Location: Report of harassment, investigation to continue.
N. 23rd Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Walz Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

10/14/2021
Prosser Hall: Report of suspicious activity, investigation to continue.
Liberty Street: Report of door found unsecure, Campus Safety Officer secured door.
East Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

10/15/2021
Robertson Hall: Report of vandalism to fire extinguisher housing, no suspects at this time.

Corrections

A story originally published in the Sept. 30 issue titled ″Implementing antiracist inititives on campus″ quoted Francesca Coppa, Ph.D., of the English department as incorrectly referencing the Latin American and Caribbean studies program as ″Latinx ... studies.″ This has been corrected in our online edition.

A byline in the opinion and editorial section of the Sept. 30 issue mispelled of our Op/Ed Editor Mustafa Hall′s name on his piece titled ″Dating while fat.″

A posed photo of the men′s soccer team was published in our Oct. 7 issue alongside the story titled ″Mules hoops a month away from opener,″ incorrectly captioned as the men′s basketball team. In the online edition, the photo has been replaced with a gameday shot of Nate Henty-Brown ′22.

We apologize sincerely for these errors.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Back on campus can't mean back to "normal"

By Gabriella Morales
Contributing Writer

It's no secret that the student body is composed of a spectrum of students who come from different backgrounds of privilege. The ways in which the last year has impacted students on campus ranges drastically. Whether that means your only option was living with seven other family members in a house constantly buzzing and no privacy, or having the ability to study and take classes in a quiet space alone without distraction, students lived very different lives at home during the pandemic. Some of us had to find jobs in order to help support our families, while money wasn't a concern for others. Sure, we receive the occasional email or two from the school acknowledging the events going on, but other than that, many students were left to fend for themselves and figure things out as they go, such as financial aid, food support, housing, mental health resources and more. Most of us couldn′t rely on the little aid the school offered. As if we needed more stressors, many of us, specifically the BIPOC community on campus, also had to face the reality of what was going on in this country.

As the height of the Black Lives Matter protests began, many of us, especially the students of color on campus, were heavily involved in the movement. I, along with other students, went from having to juggle school work and an on-campus job to balancing a full time essential worker position, online courses, mental health care, social justice work and more. Being a part of the movement alone was emotionally taxing enough. Like many other students this past year, I was so mentally, emotionally and physically drained that I ended up needing medical leave. Thankfully, I have the privilege to be able to find resources and support for my mental health, to a certain extent. However, a lot of students on campus can't afford help other than the counseling center. Even after my medical leave, actively seeing professional help, and being back on this campus, the trauma from the last year and a half (and yes, I said trauma because it was definitely traumatic) has not been erased. There are different ranges of trauma from losing a loved one due to COVID to participating in one of the largest movements of our generation. It is something each of us continues to cope with to different degrees.

Being back on Muhlenberg's campus does not erase everything that has happened since we got sent home. We cannot accept going back to normal because the normal we were used to was never good enough. It is our responsibility as a community to actively try and make our campus a better and safer place for all of its students. The COVID numbers going down and returning to campus is not an excuse to ignore the impact our time at home has had on students.

My intention in writing this is to encourage students to check on their privilege, check on their friends and check on themselves. In order for us all as a community to heal from what we have gone through, we cannot ignore that it is still affecting us, collectively. Since it affects even a small portion of students on this campus, it should affect all of us. Continue to educate yourself and your peers, because although I speak of these issues in the past, they are still very prevalent. There is always more work to be done.

Paige's Page

Paige′s Page

By Paige Weisburg
Contributing Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week′s edition of Paige's Page! This week we are going to talk about relationships! I have never been in a relationship so this should certainly be an interesting journey for all of us, but I am so excited to get to answer your more personal questions. Let's get started!

Hey, Paige! How do I stop getting the "ick?"

Hey, bestie! I love this question because I feel so bad about getting the "ick" too! For those of you who may not know what I am talking about, here is a quick definition for the cultural phenomenon of the "ick:" The "ick" is a feeling of absolute disgust that one may experience when interacting with a potential partner that makes them unable to further the relationship. The "ick" can be so many different things. Maybe it′s that they chew really loudly, or wear socks and sandals, or they drink milk. Those are some of mine (just some clues for those who may be in love with me), but maybe you have different ones and that's totally normal. I think to stop getting the "ick," you have to decide if all of the positive qualities of your potential partner outweigh the feeling of the "ick." And ultimately if it doesn't, then that isn't your person. There are a million fish in the sea, wait for the one to swim to you. But if you can look past the "ick" and you find yourself in a happy and healthy relationship then you have beat the "ick!" Congratulations! If they break your heart down the line, remember all of the potential "icks" you have looked past, feel embarrassed for maybe five minutes and then confidently move on, babe! It works, trust me.

Paige, how do I maintain meaningful connection and conversation with a potential romantic interest?

Hey, bestie! I think the key to this is to be present with them in whatever way you can; whether that is in person, on FaceTime, on the phone, whatever works for you. I am not the best when it comes to texting; any of my friends would verify that for you. However, I know how to be present and that is one of the strongest qualities in my relationships. You can ask them about the things you know they are passionate about. I love seeing people that I love talk about things that make them happy. There is nothing better than watching someone′s eyes light up when they tell you about something they may not get to talk a lot about. Another thing that can help is planning fun experience-type dates. Maybe walking through the rose gardens, or mini golfing can bring you closer. Creating memories together can strengthen relationships. Get the surface level things over with early on, stay off your phone around them, make time for them! The most important thing you can do is make them know that you want to be around them and that you enjoy being around them.

Hey girl, how do you meet guys on campus?

Hey bestie! This is a fantastic question! When you find out, let me know <3.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the @BergWeekly Instagram Linktree.

Mask up for Family Weekend

Editorial

By the Editorial Staff

Muhlenberg is currently in the yellow phase of its masking status, meaning masks must be worn inside (except in residence halls and living spaces) but don't need to be worn outside. Students generally seem to understand and follow this policy. However, Family Weekend is quickly approaching, and will occur Oct. 29-31 on campus.

Given the booming return of attendance at other return-to-normal campus activities such as homecoming/alumni weekend, theatre performances and other campus events, one can assume that Family Weekend will be crowded with eager family members. This means that parents, grandparents, siblings and cousins of various ages, abilities and health conditions will swarm to campus. While COVID doesn't spread outside as easily as it does inside, there is little known about how COVID spreads in packed outdoor spaces.

In order to protect families with health conditions that might put them at risk, the Editorial Board believes masks should be required outdoors as well as indoors for the duration of the weekend. Given the current guidelines which state that visitors from off-campus are not allowed in residence halls, the masking guidelines of masks not being required in residence halls can remain in place, with just a temporary change in the outdoor masking policy. While this would be unprecedented, we believe it is an important step in protecting the family members of our community.

Given how so many people have lost so much during the course of the pandemic, it is important to offer the safest possible space for families to visit students. The slight discomfort of wearing a mask is worth it to protect our community... It's really not that hard. Masking would allow more people to feel safe and comfortable attending and lessen the health risks of doing so.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

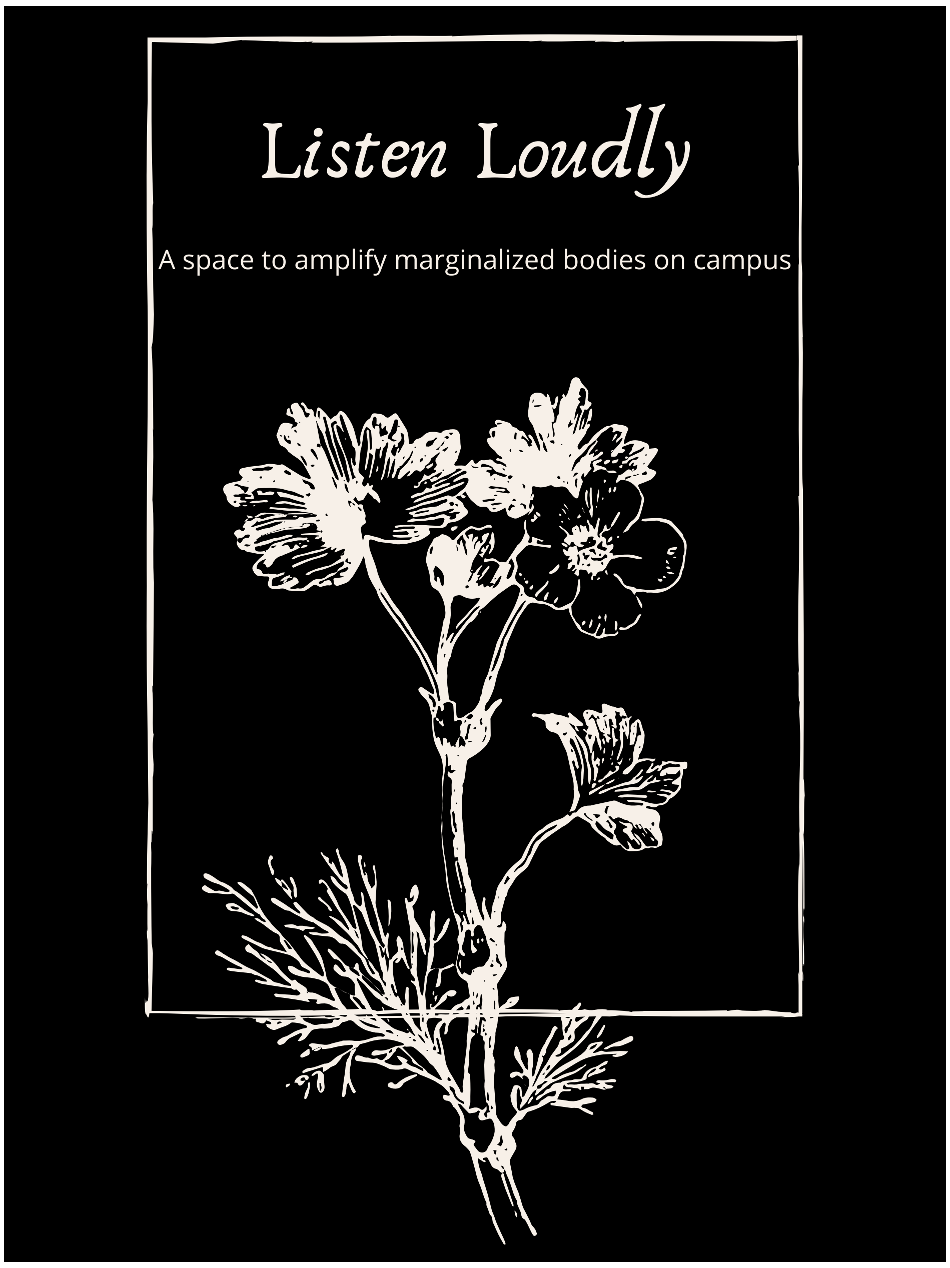
The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.


Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

September 12

By Sydney Baron
Staff Writer

You and I saw these orange poppies on the side of the road
My eye was drawn to their brightness
Kind of like how I´m drawn to you

I´m always looking for new ways to write about you
None of the words I can come up with seem to capture you in all your fullness
You elude my pen.
Much like your love has been the most powerful force I could never understand.
Out of my control.

Your love is my home and my refuge and my haven.
Your love is sparkling water
Eye crinkles
Silky skin
Rubbing my back with soap
Swinging our hands in the park
Cackling in public
Forgetting the sunscreen
Giving you the last sip
A million little moments in between.

My heart is a mosaic of your laughter and your sorrow
Time stands still when your head tilts back laughing.
Your curiosity is an eager creature that I race to follow,
Peering into each crack with wonder.

The clouds are painted pink tonight.
It´s as though my heart has spilled into the sky.

Honey

By Mustafa Hall
Op-Ed Editor

I miss the feeling of

mental lightness.

Of when my head didn't feel so heavy.

Of when it didn't feel like

someone's dropping a small marble inside my skull

with every anxious thought

up)
building
(slowly

and ultimately snapping my neck

from the unbearable weight.

I want to hold the core understanding of peace of mind

in the center of my heart and lock it in with my ribs.

The peace of having

nothing

but air

swim through the coils of my brain.

The peace that comes from having clarity and sureness

drizzle and drip down my spine like warm, sticky honey.

The peace of not having to run along

side a racing mind,

only to realize
that the only thing I'm running to catch up to is what

I've been fighting to hold onto like an escaping firefly:

Control.

‘Berg field hockey season approaches its close

By Josh Botel
Contributing Writer

With the field hockey season coming to an end, the Mules are currently 4-8 and sit in ninth place in the Centennial Conference. There are currently three games remaining and the Mules hope to end the season on a winning streak.

Head Coach Megan Eddinger talked about the rest of the season and what her coaching staff needs to prioritize for the rest of the season. “As a team, we are focusing on a strong finish to the end of the season. We have a talented team and have been battling with the competitive teams within the Centennial Conference. We need to focus on our attacking transitions, forcing corners and scoring to be successful during the last couple of weeks of the season,” she said.

In addition to sharing what her team needs to improve on and what her team’s biggest strengths are, Eddinger reflected on the senior members’ impact. “We have a very talented senior class, it has been a pleasure to coach each and every one of our seniors. They all bring something different to our program in terms of their individual strengths. Collectively the seniors are a huge part of our program. We are taking advantage of every second we have together on the field.”

Eddinger also talked about what the seniors on the team mean to her, saying, “The leadership displayed by our captains as well as the other senior team members has been instrumental for the culture of our program.”

Captain Megan Webber ‘22 spoke about the rest of the season and the approach of her final collegiate game. Webber talked about what the coaching staff is focusing on and the final playoff push.

“At practice yesterday, our coach emphasized that we really have to win out the last three games in our season to have a chance at making it to the playoffs. In the Centennial Conference every game is winnable, it’s just about what team shows up each day. We also need to focus on playing together, not individually,” Webber said.

Webber also spoke about how the coaching staff is encouraging the team for the final stretch. “Coach Eddinger motivates us by reminding us that we are such a skilled team, we just have to play our best and we can win our games.”

Katie Raab ‘24, also spoke about what Eddinger wants to see out of the team for these three games. “Coach E and the rest of the coaching staff have been encouraging us to play our hearts out on the field and to always play as a team even when we get frustrated. They always tell us how much they believe in us and our abilities to win these games which is a huge encouragement, especially when it gets down to the last quarter of a tiring game,” Raab said.

Photo by @muhlenberg_fh/Instagram

Mallory Holson ‘22 practicing with the team.

The end of a college sports season also marks the end for the collegiate careers for the seniors, athletes who have been their respective team’s foundation for the previous four years. For Webber, the final quarter of the season is bittersweet.

“It’s a sad feeling knowing my collegiate career is coming to an end, but I’ve had a really amazing time playing on the Muhlenberg field hockey team, and I will cherish these experiences for the rest of my life. Being on this team, I have really learned how to work with others as a team, and how important it is to work together and not individually. Being on this team, I have also learned how much of a difference confidence can make.

See **Field Hockey** page 11

Mules ready to roll out the mats

Muhlenberg Wrestling poised for long awaited return to competition

By Matt Polverino
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men’s wrestling team is essentially one month out from their season. The team’s roster looks a lot different from their 2019 counterpart, where they finished with an 18-4 record. While some of the roster is carried over from pre-COVID, the majority of these wrestlers haven’t had any collegiate experience.

Angelo Mahaffey ‘22, felt that even though there are some new faces, the team still has the same winning mindset. “When I got here, the team was definitely up and coming and in my sophomore year, we went up to being ranked around number 10 in the country and that’s one of the most prolific wrestling teams that Muhlenberg has ever had. We broke the school win record that year. We should only be able to go up from there. Our team now is a little bit younger, but we have a great group of guys who love to work hard and that’s really what it’s all about.”

Along with Mahaffey, Luca Colestock ‘22 had similar things to say about the change in his team throughout the years. “I think there’s a lot more of an expectation that we’re here for a reason. We brought in a lot of tough kids who work hard and have had great high school careers”.

Due to COVID-19, the team is faced with some differences in their practice regimen. “We’re broken up into two or three groups. The heavy weights are with heavy weights and the lower weights are with lower weights,” said Colestock .

The team last year did not have clinical organized practices but, “Although we couldn’t get in the wrestling room on campus very often, we know people in the Lehigh Valley that could get us into wrestling rooms. Players that wanted to train and get better got the opportunity to. Thankfully, we still got our time on the mat and had captain’s practice. I took the team for a few runs to get some conditioning in, so we definitely were getting some work done,” added Mahaffey.

Thanks to Head Coach Jason McLean’s ‘01 structure, his players feel very confident heading into the new season. “Jason does everything for us. He made a culture that we all want to buy into,” said Colestock. “The guy drives a hard bargain. He always expects 100 percent effort all of the time and pushes us to some pretty far out limits, but it’s nothing that he doesn’t think we can’t handle. He’s pushing us mentally and physically, which is great preparation,” added Mahaffey.

Given that sanitization is a huge component pre and post-practice for wrestling, there are some extra measures that the team is taking to ensure health and safety this year. “We usually keep the mats pretty clean even prior to COVID, but now during COVID, we’re not allowed to wear any street shoes or anything like that in the wrestling room. There’s a new sprayer system that we’re using this year. It’s a little boxed machine that cleans the mat with Clorox,” said Mahaffey.

Photo courtesy of Aidan Weingrad ‘23

First-years Aidan Weingrad and Chris Sockler practice their skills on the mat.

McLean is pleased with how his team has managed practicing with all of the new COVID restrictions. “The first week of this season has been great. Our training staff and administration has been great as well. Our preseason training was consistent and yielded good results, we just had to think outside the box a bit which is not a problem and keeps things fresh,” he said.

Looking ahead to his fourth year as head coach and having been an All-American himself on the Muhlenberg wrestling team, he knows what’s needed for the team to be successful. McLean said, “Besides the normal preseason activities, we have really connected on the mental side of not only being a collegiate athlete, but being successful given our new norm and all that is going on around us. They understand that there may be some unplanned changes and are grateful for the opportunity to represent themselves, their families and Muhlenberg College. We reaffirm staying positive, staying focused on their goals and how special our program is and what it means to be a part of it.”

You ain't seen nothin' net!

With the season one month away, 'Berg women's basketball is excited to return from long hiatus

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Contributing Writer

Photo by @muhlenbergwbb/Instagram

The basketball team is all smiles at their first practice of the 2021-2022 season.

For the past two years, Memorial Hall in the Life Sports Center has missed the hard squeak of a basketball shoe on its waxed floors, and so has the women's basketball team. A month out from their first game, official practice started for the Mules on Friday, Oct. 15.

The team began unofficial practices before school started with lifting and pickup, alternating with conditioning every other week. As the season approaches, the team's thoughts reflect the juniors' and seniors' thirst for collegiate competition, the underclassmen's excitement at the opportunity to play out childhood dreams and the trust forged between teammates in this offseason.

When asked about returning to the competition, small forward Margaux Eripret '22 said, "[It] feels like it's been a lot longer than it has, but I'm really excited." The season is starting with nine incoming first-year students and three sophomores who have never seen a collegiate season. Eripret praises the new blood of the team, saying, "They've been really impressing us in pickup, and we're really excited to see what they can bring."

Additionally, the team has a strong core of juniors and seniors, setting an example for the underclassmen. "I think all of us have a learning curve making that jump from sophomores to seniors," said shooting guard Mikaela McGarvey '22. "[I am] looking forward to [us] being seniors now. Obviously, when you're underclassmen, you're held to seniority, so it's kinda fun being in charge."

Undoubtedly inspired by her older teammates, shooting guard Rachel Saxton '25, entering with a 1,000 point high school career, says she's "Really excited. Definitely coming off a year with the pandemic, I just want to play really hard. I want to win every game, even win the championship."

Saxton's own personal goal is "just to get some playing time." She added, "We're a group of athletic and competitive girls, and there are no other people I want to play with. I guess my goal for right now is to get time, show effort and make an impact."

The whole conference is made up of teams with incoming freshmen and sophomores who have never played collegiately as well as players like Eripret and McGarvey.

The possibilities for the Mules may be best reflected in the bond between teammates. After only a few months of unofficial practices, it seems that the season of 2021-2022 will be attacked by a cohesive group of selfless players.

When asked about personal goals, the Mules answer by talking about the incredible potential of their own teammates. Saxton (better known as "Bestie Ray" on the team), says that her primary goal is, "winning for the seniors who didn't have a year last year and even the returning players. Just coming in,, playing hard and doing it for them and our coaches and our school."

This week the season officially started for the Mules. It's a season that will feature 12 games at home, the home opener is on Nov. 16 against the DeSales University Bulldogs. This year, the team will play against their Centennial Conference opponents once at home and once away, with 21 conference games. This group of young talent and competition-thirsty upperclassmen will test their mettle against a conference that has kept Muhlenberg out of the NCAA tournament since 2016.

One thing is for sure— this team is motivated and hungry to win. The seniors are ready to take charge and realize the dreams that were stolen by the pandemic. The 12 first-years and sophomores are prepared to leave their mark on Muhlenberg's history. The fans are ready to hear the echoes of their voices and the stomping Mule hooves on the wooden bleachers as the return of live basketball approaches. Most importantly, this team is ready to win together, for each other, the seniors and the school.

Eripret has long anticipated this return to competition. "It's like a whole new league. The possibilities are endless."

From **Field Hockey** page 10

Playing with confidence can make you a much better player, and I can see this applying to different areas of life other than field hockey."

For some of the underclassmen, seeing their fellow upperclassmen move on from playing is a tough experience. For Raab, one of those seniors happens to be her sister Sarah Raab '22, " I'm sad that I only got to have one season playing with my sister instead of two, but I want to make this count as much as I can and win these next games. There is no one else I would rather play with on the field and I will miss her and the rest of the seniors so much next year."

On Saturday, Oct. 16, the team suffered a tough 4-0 loss to Johns Hopkins University.

The Mules are on the road to Chestertown, MD to square off against Washington College on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 1 p.m.

This is a must win game against a tough opponent that is going into the game with a 8-4 record with a 3-3 conference record. The Mules hope to win that game, a definite

**A game was played on Wednesday, Oct. 20, against Bryn Mawr, in between production and publication.*

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules pull out huge win under the lights

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Joshua Barnett '22 celebrating during last weekend's game.

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

In a game with huge conference and playoff implications, the Muhlenberg football team showed up big and beat conference rivals, the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays, 21-6 on Friday night. The Mules (5-1, 4-1) came in ranked 21st in Division III, while Hopkins (5-1, 4-1) sat at 14th. The Blue Jays also entered as the top-scoring team in Division III, averaging 59.8 points per game.

The Mules knew they had a tough game on their hands, but they practiced and knew what they were up against. "For the Hopkins game, we focused on a couple of things. The biggest was getting back to our fundamentals. We knew it would be a tough game and felt like the team that did the little things best would win," said Head Coach Nathan Milne. "We discussed what the atmosphere would be like and prepared very hard in practice that week to make it as game-like as possible."

The team came in focused this week—especially the defense who held the high powered offense to six points. "The focus in practice this week was stopping the big play," said linebacker Spencer Kirin '22, who recorded seven tackles. Kirin also created his own big play with a momentum-changing blocked punt that he returned himself for a touchdown. "We knew they were a good team that would move the ball and make plays. If we could stop them from making explosive plays, that would really help our team."

Defensive coordinator Kory David made sure his unit was ready for what was gonna be a determined offense. "Our focus was to challenge ourselves to be better on the field and off," he said. "We wanted to stop the run and make them solely one dimensional. At that point, we wanted to match up our players versus their top guys and control their top ranked passing attack."

The defense was clicking all night, holding the Hopkins offense to 384 yards compared to their average of 590.8 and forcing two interceptions and a fumble to seal the game for the Mules.

The Muhlenberg community also came out strong for the game, with students participating in a "blackout," a planned theme where everyone must dress in all black, to energize the team and show their spirit. "The energy in the stands was electric. It perfectly displayed the 'Berg school spirit for what it is: a welcoming, inclusive and engaged community," said Kyle Ropski '22. "Although we may not be able to reach Penn State level with their 'White Out,' I believe the 'Black Out' was still a positive engaging element that contributed to bringing the community in the stands together better."

Teams always feed off the energy around them and this was no different for Friday Night Lights. "The crowd definitely added to the energy of the game. The team fed off their energy all game," said Kirin.

The crowd were a vital component in the result of the game, wanting to bring enthusiasm and excitement for such an important game. "The crowd absolutely feeds off of the energy of the players," said Ropski. "At a small school like Muhlenberg, most of the students can really say they 'know' a player on the team. To see [and] hear a classmate on the field adds a personal connection to the game—much more so than at a larger school. These connections between the members in the Muhlenberg community works towards a synergy between all Mules, players and spectators."

Even with the win, the Mules are constantly looking to keep improving as a team. "We need to keep our focus on where we can improve as individuals, where we can improve as a group and where we can improve as a team," said Coach Milne. "We have some older, experienced players, but overall as a team we are very new to college football and have so much room for improvement."

Kirin feels the same way. "This game was huge for us, but now it is important that we stay focused and continue working hard."

David, too, wants the team to keep that same energy both on the field and off the field. "This team has to continue to focus on what has gotten us here and live by our team's core values. We need to dig in and make decisions with the team and teammates first," he said. "Over the next month of games, there will be sacrifices that will have to be made to continue this championship climb. We will need to find what we can do in the classroom, on the field, in the weightroom, training room and with whatever else is going in this busy world daily."

While obviously happy with the result, the team knows that the season is far from over. Every game left is equally important as the season progresses. "It means that this week's game against Juniata is the biggest game of the year for our team," said Milne. "Each game is extremely important and they get bigger and bigger each week." David knows this team will need to use the momentum from Friday and put that into every game for the rest of the season. "The Hopkins game was exciting and we played well," said David. "To us, it means we are still in the hunt for our conference and several goals that we have set for ourselves. To do that we have to go 1-0 this week."

The team knows that they can win the big games and that will become crucial down this stretch. "The biggest takeaway is the way we were able to win in such a hard fought game. We knew it would be a battle and we would have to play our best game yet in order to win, and we did," said Kirin. "If we can play like that for the rest of the season, we will be very successful."

The Mules look to bring their A-game against Juniata College at home on Oct. 23.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Oct. 21 - Oct. 28

Football

Muhlenberg
vs
Juniata

Saturday, Oct. 23 @ 12:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Johns Hopkins

Saturday, Oct. 23 @ 4:00 p.m.
Baltimore, Md.

Men's Soccer

Muhlenberg
vs
Johns Hopkins

Saturday, Oct. 23 @ 1:00 p.m.
Baltimore, Md.

Field Hockey

Muhlenberg
vs
WashingtonCollege

Saturday, Oct. 23 @ 1:00 p.m.
Chestertown, Md.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021
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Learn more about the Allentown housing crisis.

read more on 4

Call Me By Any Other Name... Just as Sweet debuts

Read more on page 5

Photo Courtesy of Scott Synder/Muhlenberg Theatre and Dance Department

Students respond to Restore and Reconnect Day

By Sabrina Vitale
Contributing Writer

One of the most consistently stigmatized topics of conversation on college campuses (and elsewhere) is the subject of mental health. And, unfortunately, lack of acknowledgement of these mental and emotional hardships makes it increasingly difficult for college students to practice effective self-care.

On Oct. 22, Muhlenberg students and faculty were invited to attend Muhlenberg's first Restore and Reconnect (R&R) Day. As specified by Dean of Students Allison Williams in a schoolwide email sent out on Oct. 20, the purpose of this day was to acknowledge the hardships and stress that the semester may be causing students and take a moment to "collectively catch our breath."

Friday classes were cancelled and activities, workshops, free food and other opportunities to relax were further advertised in the email, along with an attachment providing a schedule of the events taking place throughout the day.

Finally, Williams specified that she and the administration recognize that one day of relaxation and reconvening without classes will not solve the problem of mental health on campus. She continued to say that, "After Friday, there will be many other opportunities for us to work together on long-term structural and sustainable initiatives and changes to continue supporting the emotional well-being of our campus community."

Friday proved to be a beautiful day. Students were able to partake in a surfboard challenge, help themselves to fall-themed food, rock-climb, get a massage, play games and even spend some quality time with dogs and puppies. Many other activities were available as well, but as a student, it was almost impossible to partake in everything.

The events of the day seemed to achieve the desired effect of a boost in morale. Student Government Association President Zaire Carter '22 said, "I believe the intentions of the day were good. I think it was one step in addressing the current student climate and truly understanding what students are going through."

Carter was not alone in this sentiment. Emily Burns '22 believes that Muhlenberg's R&R Day was "a great first step towards a widespread understanding of mental health." She agrees that the acknowledgment of a campus-wide issue is important and the day itself was fun, but further steps need to be taken.

There has been a lot of discussion among the student body regarding access to mental health services, lack of counseling availability and the stigmatized discussions surrounding mental health on campus among students and faculty. Valentina Nazzaro '23 expressed, "It is interesting to see how much money was put into this one-day event. Thinking about the bigger picture, I think that money could have been spent elsewhere, like hiring more counselors or bettering the services provided on campus."

Castelle Eskin '22 expressed that she "felt frustrated that there were a lot of mandatory activities and assignments that were still going on." Regardless of the efforts made to cancel classes, some extracurriculars and assignments were not accounted for, which reduces the effectiveness of a campus-wide push for a day of rest.

Williams stated that R&R Day "surpassed all of [her] expectations in terms of student participation, faculty and staff involvement, and the overall vibe of joy and connection it created across campus. We went in knowing that by no means would a one-day experience solve the often deep and complex mental health concerns in our community and beyond. However, this day of focus was intended to signal to our community that the College takes very seriously the importance of mental health, well-being and connection in our community."

Hopefully, Muhlenberg's R&R Day is the first of many attempts to address the issues of mental health on campus and the rhetoric of destigmatizing the health of our students can keep changing. "Based on the success, I think that something like this will be offered again in the future," Williams commented. "I also suspect that our academic policy committee, the Provost's Office and the Registrar's Office will have more conversations about the R&R day and/or other fall calendar changes that could provide a bit more respite in the middle of a hectic fall. This will take some time, but these conversations are underway." Carter captured this sentiment by expressing, "Like all things, this conversation must continue. I was happy to see so many students taking advantage of the activities."

Dan Royles educates 'Berg on AIDS crisis

By Matthew Baresh
Contributing Writer

Author and historian Dan Royles gave insight on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Moyer Hall last Thursday, Oct. 21. He discussed its disproportionate impacts on the Black community in the United States when compared to the white population. At the start of his lecture, Royles shared some information from his book project, "To Make the Wounded Whole: The African American Struggle Against HIV/AIDS."

"African Americans make up about 12 percent of the United States' population, but about 42 percent of new diversities of HIV," Royles explained. "The largest group, in terms of absolute numbers of new cases of HIV, are Black gay or bisexual men. If numbers like these hold, one in two Black gay men can expect to contract HIV within their lifetime."

Royles then delved into the history of the AIDS epidemic in relation to the disproportionate amount of African Americans who contract HIV/AIDS.

"Very often when we're talking about AIDS history or activism history, it is the the history of white gay men. When we do

See **Royles** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

10/18/2021
Liberty Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Prosser Hall: Report of found Airpods, owner later claimed item.
Chew Street (2100 BLK): Report of damage found to window, Housing and Residence Life notified, individual identified and spoken to.
Brown Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

10/19/2021
N. 23rd Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Benfer Hall: Report of harassment, individuals identified and spoken to, investigation to continue.
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from burnt food, system silenced and reset.

10/20/2021
Prosser Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
The Village: Report of fire alarm from steam, Plant Operations notified to respond, system silenced and reset.
N. 23rd Street: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Leh Street: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
Gordon Street: Report of hit and run to vehicle, individuals identified and spoken to, insurance information to be exchanged, no further incident.
Benfer Hall: Report of fire alarm from burnt food, system silenced and reset.
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Moyer Hall: Report of found wallet, owner later claimed item.
N. 22nd Street (300 BLK): Interview at headquarters.

10/22/2021
Chew Street: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

10/23/2021
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by a friend.
Chew & 22nd Street: Report of fire alarm from dryer, system silenced and reset.

10/24/2021
East Hall: Report of alcohol violation, individuals identified and spoken to, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

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′Berg holds Hunger Free Campus Symposium

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

Muhlenberg College welcomed a wide array of speakers to its Hunger Free Campus Symposium on Oct. 24 in Moyer Hall. The event was organized by the College's chapter of Challah for Hunger, a nonprofit based in Jewish values with a mission of minimizing food insecurity, and featured several politicians, activists and student leaders.

Speakers included Congresswoman Susan Wild, Governor Tom Wolf, First Lady Frances Wolf, Senator Bob Casey, Representative Malcolm Kenyatta, Representative Mike Schlossberg ′05, Joel Berg (food insecurity activist), and Krystal Hall '21. These individuals spoke on the need to address food insecurity among college students through public policy and legislation.

Food insecurity, while rarely discussed in relation to university students, is a major issue. In his video remarks, Senator Bob Casey noted that "more than a third of students who responded [to a nationwide college survey] reported experiencing food insecurity." The need for food among these individuals was only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which put a strain on many students' incomes.

Some of the guests shared personal stories of food insecurity while in higher education. State representative for Pennsylvania′s 181st district Kenyatta is currently leading the charge on Pennsylvania's version of a Hunger Free Campus Bill. His passion is driven by his personal collegiate experience. Kenyatta stated, "When I was in school I remember not having enough meals on my meal plan… to really sustain me through the week."

Congresswoman for Pennsylvania's seventh district Wild spoke in-person about her similar struggles. "Signing up for the meal plan in college was not an option for me. It was all I could do to get those tuition payments and buy my books, let alone paying for what seemed like an extravagant meal plan." She noted that relying on philanthropy alone is not the way to go about solving this issue. Substantive policy change is needed, and according to Wild, "The issues we're talking about today are very much affected by your choice of elected officials."

Addressing issues adjacent to the topic of hunger was an important facet of the event. State representative for Pennsylvania's 132nd district Schlossberg has observed a "tendency in public policy to look at things from a myopic perspective." Schlossberg, a big proponent of mental health care, cited a study that found that for every dollar the minimum wage is raised, suicide rates decrease by one percent. This demonstrates the domino effect that solving related issues can have on the food insecurity problem facing college students.

Schlossberg stated that, "We do fundamentally need systemic change." Pennsylvania's First Lady Wolf, expressed similar sentiments in her personalized video. "This is the result of systemic issues like inequity, poverty and the lack of opportunity. And these issues run deep." She advocated for a multifaceted solution to food insecurity in Pennsylvania's institutions of higher education. Wolf outlined her plan saying, "That means addressing the astronomical cost of higher education, strengthening our social safety net, ensuring fair wages for all, increasing access to quality health care, improving our transportation systems, addressing climate change and making equitable investments in education."

One major piece of legislation being advocated for by many of the event's guests was the EATS (Enhance Access To SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program]) Act of 2021. The bill states that it will work to "amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to treat attendance at an institution of higher education the same as work for the purpose of determining eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program." This means that students will no longer have to hold a job alongside their course obligations in order to qualify for food assistance, which is a current restriction of SNAP benefits.

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Muhlenberg Challah for Hunger members and Representative Mike Schlossberg ′05.

President of Muhlenberg's chapter of Challah for Hunger Natalie David '22 expressed her reasoning for spearheading the event saying, "To create change, you have to believe you can. I wanted to empower my peers to create legislative change on issues that directly impact our collective health and well-being. Each student has the capability to create change and there is power in numbers. By building coalitions of educated, passionate individuals, we can help our vision of a more equitable college experience become reality."

"I enjoyed attending the Symposium because it gives me comfort to know that we have the power to make change and end hunger on more than just Muhlenberg's campus," remarked Isabella Trauger '23. "Co-leading the Food Recovery Network has given me the opportunity to make a change in the Lehigh Valley, and this symposium has inspired my co-president and I to continue to find ways to end hunger on campus!"

Alex Wagner '22 was in agreement, stating, "Rarely is hunger looked at through the lens of a college campus. I feel like many people do not see it like that and it′s something that desperately needs to be brought to the front. Representative Schlossberg made a great connection with hunger and mental health by drawing from his own experiences. As someone who has had his own struggles, that part really hit home for me."

For those that want to advocate for the passage of legislation that would provide for food insecure students, the primary course of action as outlined by many speakers is to contact your local legislators. Wild stressed the importance of taking action saying,"Stay engaged. Call your legislators, demand to know what their position is on things, make sure that they know what your position is. It really, really does make a difference. And if it doesn't make a difference to your elected official then you've got the wrong elected official, and you need to vote them out."

From **Royles** page 1

talk about the ways that the Black community has reacted to the AIDS epidemic, we often talk about them in terms of their deficits. These narratives assume that the Black communtiy is homophobic or there is denial in Black communities, which is why the disparity is so great."

This common idea is rejected in Royles' new book as he focuses more on the positive responses that Black communities have made to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He started exploring this subject during his time at Temple University when writing a research paper on AIDS activism in Philadelphia. He then discovered the story of Rashidah Abdul-Khabeer (nee Hassan) and her organization "BEBASHI," an acronym for "Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues."

"My idea of AIDS activism was kicked by a group called ACT UP. It was a diverse group but it was also a group that was led by middle-class white gay men and women. This is the mental image that I had of an AIDS activist, and finding the story of Rashida Hassan exploded that for me."

Royles introduced the "gayborhood," a neighborhood in downtown Philadelphia comprised of mostly white gay men. This small community created tension as AIDS organizations were mostly focused on the gayborhood rather than the large amounts of gay Black men in other parts of the city.

"This early set of tensions butt heads in 1986 in the city's first Candlelight AIDS Walk. There was conversation of where the walk should take place," said Royles. "Some said it should take place through the gayborhood while others said the disease is already marked as white gay males, so we need a route that gets outside the gayborhood."

Royles then explained that Hassan resigned as vice president of Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives, parent organization to the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force, at the end of the walk with a riveting speech. She resigned due to restructuring that took the right to distribute funds out of the hands of a committee and into the hands of PCHA's president. She brought these issues of unrepresented Black males in Philadelphia and continued to hold seminars and workshops through BEBASHI to continue supporting this community.

He then described the difficulties faced by multiple AIDS organizations in terms of finances, followed by the racism inherent in the situations.

"In BEBASHI's case, the wrongdoing of Hassan using money for her wardrobe was assumed without evidence, and in the case of the [Philadelphia] AIDS Task Force, predominantly led by white males, the president [of PCHA] was proven for stealing the organization′s money. And yet, the AIDS Task Force was the organization that continued to grow."

Royles connected these funding issues to the lack of support from the government for the AIDS epidemic.

"The government, federal, state and local, failed to respond to AIDS as a health crisis, and in failing to respond, left the responsibility to private nonprofit groups," said Royles. "The amount of public resources devoted to fighting AIDS has never been enough."

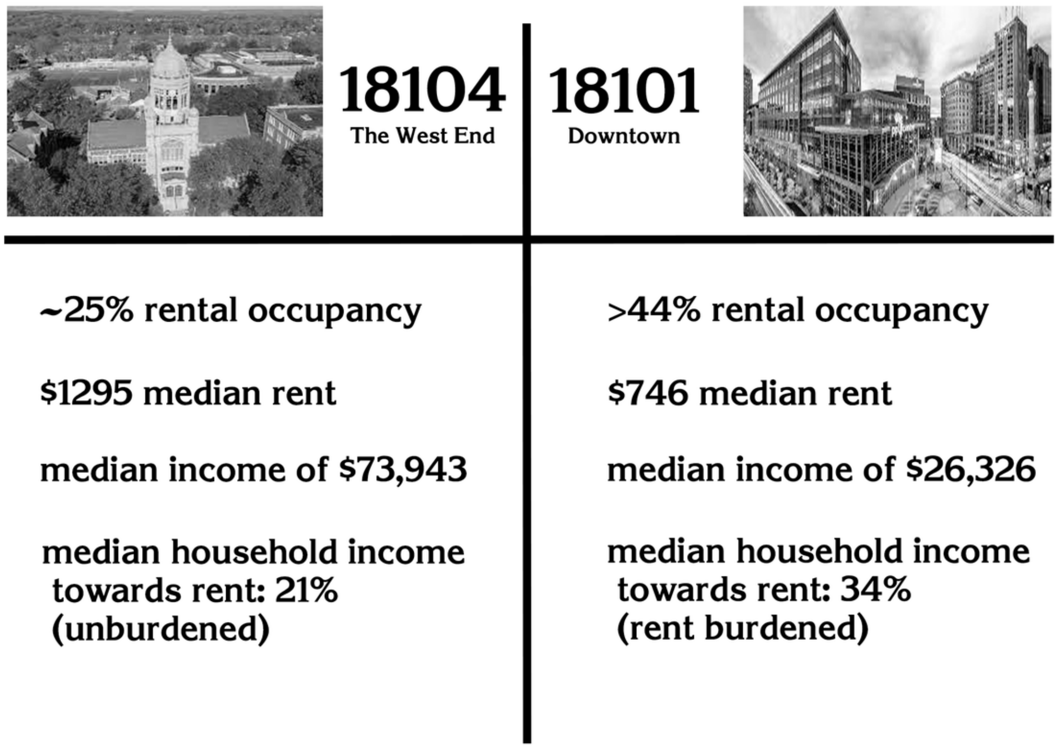
"After listening to the lecture, I found it very interesting to learn about another side of the AIDS movement that was… equally as important to the major players in the news," remarked Jake Azrolan '21.

"I also thought it did a very good job of touching on themes of shame and guilt, passive and active bystanders, and how stories are told," added Aevyn Barnett '22.

To finish, Royles argued that, "The deeper epidemic is all the things that AIDS exposed: inequality, white supremacy, corporate greed. And until we deal with those problems, the next epidemic will come along and expose them all over again. Look, it has already happened with COVID-19."

The Allentown housing crisis: the fight for affordable housing

By Katherine Dickey
Managing Editor



18104 The West End	18101 Downtown
~25% rental occupancy	>44% rental occupancy
$1295 median rent	$746 median rent
median income of $73,943	median income of $26,326
median household income towards rent: 21% (unburdened)	median household income towards rent: 34% (rent burdened)

Graphic by Katherine Dickey exploring some of the housing crises of Allentown.

If you drive around the city of Allentown, you may notice a distinct lack of 'for sale' or 'for rent' signs. For a city that has spent several million dollars on revitalization, they are now facing a new problem--there isn't enough housing for the number of people who want to live here. More importantly, there isn't enough affordable housing.

In Allentown, an estimated 54.7 percent of renters pay more than 30 percent of their income towards rent, qualifying more than half of Allentown's population as rent-burdened by Census standards. As of 2019, the median gross rent in Allentown was $1,004 monthly. The median household income was $41,167, meaning the median household falls barely under being rent burdened, at 29.2 percent of pre-tax income put towards rent. Simply, there aren't enough units to house everyone, so rents keep going up.

Tim Ramos, the Republican nominee in the Allentown mayoral race, says, "The crisis in affordable housing is hitting our communities hard. We've seen rent go up by hundreds of dollars just since the pandemic, and it's reaching the point that long-term residents are struggling to stay."

The housing crisis doesn't just look like expensive rents, it also has to do with what one scholar calls the "geography of opportunity."

"It's the housing package; all the stuff that comes with your house," explains Karen Pooley, professor of political science at Lehigh University, focusing on urban development. "It's the stuff on the inside. You have two or three bathrooms, but then it's also all that stuff that's on the outside. So parks and grocery stores and transit and good schools and those kinds of things. And your pathway to that stuff is through the housing that's near that stuff."

And constructing new housing isn't a sure solution. "Housing takes a lot of time to build," explains Pooley, "so if you have a lot of people who want it, it's going to take a while for the supply to ratchet up."

Zoning laws are the means with which cities can control how land is used—but these laws can also be hard to change. "From my perspective," says Cristian deRitis, deputy chief economist at Moody's Analytics, "a lot of this comes down to zoning; changing zoning requirements, increasing the density in some of these areas. We have many communities where, for example, you are only allowed to build one single family home on a lot. Clearly given the demand for certain areas, particularly suburban types of areas, that's insufficient."

Adding to the difficulty of changing zoning laws is battling the problem of NIMBYism, or "Not In My BackYard." "What you often have are communities that are with an idea in spirit," says deRitis. "Everyone's on board with that until you tell them that it's their neighborhood, or it's their property that we're talking about."

Pooley connects this NIMBYism to the history of redlining in America, a policy by which neighborhoods where Black residents lived were deemed as too "risky" for federally subsidized mortgages, leading to lower rates of Black homeownership and less ability to accrue generational wealth. "If you've seen any of those redlining maps, a lot of the redlined areas were places that had denser housing that you had in the 1930s, and the more integrated the neighborhood in terms of income, certainly in terms of race, the lower your rating was going to be on those maps. [With denser, more integrated housing,] you're going to be in the yellow or the red zone. [Even today,] if an apartment complex is proposed in a neighborhood that doesn't have a lot of dense housing in 2021, that community meeting will erupt."

"You do see a number of communities pushing back against these efforts to increase or change zoning rules, because it might change the character of their neighborhood, might change just what they're used to. It certainly will bring more individuals to the area so there are concerns about traffic as well, local traffic at least. So it's not an easy issue," says deRitis. "Also, zoning laws are often drawn at the local level so it's very difficult to change and can't really change it from a national mandate. The best the federal government could do is provide some incentives to communities to change their zoning laws."

One form of zoning changes is known as inclusionary zoning. "What inclusionary zoning says is that, yes we need development, but the development that happens can't be at the detriment of the people," explains Cece Gerlach, Allentown city council member. "What's happening right now is the development that's happening down at the waterfront, and downtown is causing the prices in the surrounding neighborhoods to skyrocket." The money the city has spent on improvements downtown, including a $300 million development by the waterfront, has left a lot of people scrambling for housing.

This development at the waterfront, also known as the Neighborhood Improvement Zone or NIZ, has been criticized by politicians on both sides of the aisle. Says Ramos, "My [concern when the NIZ was first proposed] was that the NIZ's major players would force out existing homes and businesses... The problem is simple—the proponents of the NIZ tried to make downtown into something that was inaccessible to the large majority of residents. Now, we have to invite local residents to invest in the downtown and make it one that all residents can enjoy."

"[Inclusionary zoning] just mitigates some of the effects of the gentrification," Gerlach continues, "it says that for every X number of market rate apartments that developers are building, that a certain percentage of them must be what would be deemed workforce housing. The units must be affordable, must be for working class people, and they must be mixed throughout the development. You can't have all the working class people on one floor. They must have access to the same amenities and the same quality of life as everyone else."

Gerlach also explained the kinds of "perks" developers can expect under inclusionary zoning policies. Density restrictions on how tall a developer can build, parking and storage requirements and fees may be partially or fully waived. While these advantages may make constructing new affordable housing more appealing to developers, it isn't a sure solution in markets that aren't booming.

"It's a great solution for places that are building new... you can get economies of scale," warns Pooley of relying on inclusionary zoning. "But if you don't have that kind of hot hot market... One of the challenges is that they'll pass that ordinance and be like 'Whoo! We have solved the affordable housing crisis!' You will make 10 families very happy. But you got 30,000 over there who could probably use it."

Pooley isn't the only one who is somewhat skeptical about inclusionary zoning. "It sounds nice in theory, and it might work in places where there's no alternatives," says Matt Tuerk, Democratic nominee for mayor of Allentown. "But in a place like Allentown, if there's a requirement that you build 20 percent of your units as affordable, at some additional cost, it's just as easy to do those projects [somewhere else without the requirement] or just abandon the project and the Lehigh Valley as a whole."

Ramos is similarly mistrustful of inclusionary zoning, though for different reasons. "Inclusionary zoning is well intentioned but it's not practical," says Ramos. "What it will do is give affordable housing to some residents but leave the large majority paying more than they were before. The current housing crisis is caused primarily by government interference in the housing market through gentrification, and more interference is just going to further manipulate the market and drive up rents for the people who can't get into the subsidized units."

Though he doesn't trust inclusionary zoning, Ramos still thinks zoning changes can be a solution. "What we badly need right now are new, affordable apartments. I'm proposing that we re-zone some of our unused industrial space to permit the construction of new, market-rate units. We also need to ensure that government-sponsored development tools like the NIZ aren't using tax dollars to push out existing residents."

"People who just lean on zoning as being the solution to everything, it can't be," Gerlach acknowledges. "It's just one tool in the toolbox that when combined with other tools will actually have some type of impact." Gerlach points out land trusts, nonprofit organizations which own and manage land, and land banks, entities created by the government or a nonprofit group to help manage and sometimes

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"To thine own self be true / And it must follow, as the night the day / Thou canst not then be false to any man." - William Shakespeare

Call Me By Any Other Name... Just as Sweet

Christian Nemeh '22, Ozlyn Smith '22, Celeste Samson '22, Noah Ryall '25

Photo by Scott Snyder/Muhlenberg Theater and Dance Department

By Ian Clark
Staff Writer

"Romeo and Juliet" is a play that has been performed ad nauseam. Countless iterations of the star-crossed lovers, with little to no creative liberty in the content of the story, only creativity in presentation. Director and visiting assistant professor of theatre, dance and directing at Muhlenberg, Nigel Semaj saw this void and decided to fill it with their transformative and breathtaking queer deconstruction of "Romeo and Juliet"— "Call Me By Any Other Name... Just As Sweet."

The show lives up to its description of being a complete queer deconstruction of the original story: genders are different, new relationships emerge, even the ending is different. This all distinguishes this story from the norm, something that the show expresses by being "markedly queer" says Anna Item '25, who worked on the costume crew for "Call Me."

"Call Me" immediately set itself apart from previous adaptations of Shakespeare's classic through its urban aesthetics, flashy costumes, use of modern colloquial language and, most of all, dance numbers. Semaj included dance numbers in the performance featuring a variety of modern songs that perform as scenes within themselves or interludes between scenes. Although it may seem like an off-putting alteration from the original play, the dance sequences do so much to further the plot and amplify emotions that words cannot fully express. From the feeling of love at first sight between Romeo and Juliet at the Capulet ball, to Juliet's decision to commit suicide at the end, all are heightened through the use of dance in order to tell this age-old story in a new and engaging way.

The show, while being incredibly unique in its own way, still has familiar references hidden throughout. "It was really special... to experience the show and to see all of the references to queer culture that are embedded within it, and how that can be tied into storytelling that seems to exclude us, but actually doesn't have to," stated Anna Item '25. Within dance numbers, choreography referenced house and ball culture of urban queer youth; music choice employed hits by Lil Nas X, Teyana Taylor and Sam Smith; and added lines of dialogue alluded to queer subcultures such as those presented in RuPaul's Drag Race. The individuality of this show stands out like a sore thumb covered in glitter and this individuality is only built up by the use of existing queer culture. These references allow those who identify with queer culture to find a safe space within this show, and to feel recognized and heard.

"Finding songs for my shows typically takes a while to pick, and when a song speaks to me and speaks to the text I just have to put it in the show in some way. For example, Arcade's lyrics 'Loving you is a losing game' is the show summed up in one line of a song. I was on my way home one day and that song came across my Spotify and I just listened to it over and over and Juliet's funeral came to mind and we choreographed it the next day in rehearsal." Semaj said, describing their choices for music in the show.

Bridget Wiggan '23, who played Lady Montague and served as the dance captain, mentioned, "The production went amazingly well, which was gratifying considering how much time everyone put into the production. I honestly didn't think it would have as much of an impact on the Muhlenberg community as it did, because while I loved the little details of the production after spending so much time in that world, I didn't know how others would feel seeing the world for the first time - but people, including myself, really resonated with seeing queer and POC bodies centered in a narrative that usually excludes them. Also, it made Shakespeare accessible for once."

One of the most important changes the play presents is the amount of diversity seen in the cast and crew of the production. The show features many actors of varying races, genders and sexualities that bring a new perspective to this typically cisgender, heterosexual, white story. Naava Wilson '25, a member of the chorus in the show, commented, "We had a really diverse cast... And I'm just glad people like this show, I hope people

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Amira Jackson's award-winning exposé on racism in Pittsburgh

By Gabriella Hirshfield
Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, Trexler Library and the offices of Multicultural Life, Community Engagement and Religious and Spiritual Life came together to bring the Muhlenberg community another session of the VOICES series, which facilitates conversations with student leaders.

This event focused on Amira Jackson '24 and her documentary entitled "Pittsburgh: The People," which won first prize at the Anti-Racism Film Festival in Pittsburgh this past summer. Jackson is a double major in theatre and film studies.

The film opens with Jackson's voice reciting a poem by Antwon Rose, a 17 year-old who was fatally shot by police in Pittsburgh in 2018. The poem opens with and repeats the phrase, "I am confused and afraid." After some shots of scenery, the film shifts to a man dancing in front of a memorial for Breonna Taylor, a 26-year old woman who was killed in her home in 2020. On one half of the body of the dancer, there are red and white handprints and he moves rigidly, appearing restricted. On the other half of the body, the movement is fluid and free.

The audience is then presented with three different perspectives on racism in Pittsburgh: one from Zora, a child; one from Ericka, a teenager; and one from Jerome, an adult. Jackson asks each of these individuals questions pertaining to racism, specifically racism in Pittsburgh. Zora shares how she is the only Black student in her class at her private school, Ericka talks about the gentrified neighborhoods of Pittsburgh and Jerome discusses exclusive bills and legislation and the ever present racism in the city.

The film concludes with a statement about how Pittsburgh is full of significant problems for Black people, and how, in order to fix the problems facing marginalized communities, individuals must first listen to the people who are being discriminated against.

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Amira Jackson '24 screened her documentary and hosted a Q&A.

As the film ended, there was a stark silence as though every single person present was holding their breath. Jackson was met with overwhelming applause.

AJ Carraby-Jones '25 commented, saying, "I think it was an amazing film. I thought it was pretty inspiring especially since she is just getting into filmmaking, and I thought the message that she tried to portray was definitely the most important part of it."

After the screening of the film, a talkback was held to discuss the film. Jackson was asked about her inspiration, and explained that she heard about the film festival, and "wanted to depict racism as something the audience discovers." Jackson began the project as soon as she got home from school last spring.

Throughout the previous summer, Jackson witnessed and attended many protests for racial justice in Pittsburgh. "It was so unreal to spend my summer as a college student fighting for my life." She wanted to take that surrealness and put it in the film.

She also explained the unique genre of the film: documentary fiction. This is where a filmmaker talks about true events, but depicts them in a fictional way. The fictional aspect of the film was the man dancing with the handprints on his body. Jackson discussed the significance of this image, explaining that the white handprints on his body symbolized white privilege, and the red handprints symbolized police brutality. She had instructed the dancer to dance more rigidly on the side of his body with the handprints, and more fluidly on the side without. This was to symbolize the true beauty that occurs when Black voices are not discriminated against and pushed aside.

Another important aspect of the film was the age differences of those interviewed and how those varying perspectives shed light on the different aspects of racism. Jackson sought to combine these experiences to form a comprehensive view of racism in Pittsburgh, one that acknowledged generational differences.

Jackson also discussed making space for marginalized voices to talk about important issues. This is Jackson's goal in all of her art forms, and she wants "to create films that appreciate voices that are not heard, because these people matter."

The main takeaway that Jackson sought to instill in her viewers was that racism is much more than slurs and police brutality; not only does it exist in legislation, but it is also a highly individualized and unique experience.

Jackson stated, "As a community and as a student body we have a lot of work to do... We can say we are going to be more inclusive and support Black lives, but what are we actually doing to bring that to life? And for white students: your support means a lot. You have a lot of privilege, you have a lot of a say in what happens, so when you don't use that privilege it's automatically interpreted as you not supporting us."

Unveiled

By Danny Milkis
Arts and Culture Editor

On Friday, Oct. 22, the Muhlenberg community gathered together to welcome a guest artist with a unique and powerful performance. Rohina Malik, a critically acclaimed playwright and solo artist based out of Chicago, presented "Unveiled," which explores themes of anti-Muslim bias and the Islamophobia that comes with wearing hijab in post-9/11 United States. The event was sponsored by the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

Malik explained that the show began touring in schools and saw success through word of mouth. Educators and administrators began to approach her after some of the shows, urging her to continue sharing this story to a wider variety of audiences. Since then, "Unveiled" has seen premieres at major theatre companies, such as the New Repertory Theatre and the Greater Boston Stage Company, as well as other colleges such as the University of Utah and Wake Forest University.

"Muslim people have been demonized, and I want to emphasize that it's not in our faith to hurt others," explained Malik to the audience. "It's in our religion to practice love and live lives of peace."

The piece began as a monologue, where Malik spoke of her own experiences and social struggles as a Muslim woman. This was followed by the stories of five other Muslim women, all portrayed by Malik. In order to transition between characters, she would pour a cup of tea from a small kettle on the table beside her, highlighting an important cultural attribute.

She then transformed into the first woman, who was situated at a close friend's wedding with her children. However, the scene quickly turned dark as a man approaches her, harassing her relentlessly for her choice to wear hijab and calling her a series of offensive names in front of her children.

The creation of the second woman in the sequence was inspired by a hate crime that Malik witnessed firsthand. A woman married a man who converted to Islam, and he was beaten to death. Malik spoke to the wife's experience as she learned to cope with this horrific tragedy.

Photo from www.rohinamalik.weebly.com

Rohina Malik preforming her one-woman show "Unveiled."

Next, Malik transformed into a woman rushing to ground zero on Sept. 11, 2001, who made the decision to remove her hijab due to a fear of Islamophobic backlash by paranoid white Americans. The fourth transformation followed a South Asian rapper who spoke about the profound sense of femininity that wearing hijab provides her, and how this worldview stands in stark contrast to what her society

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The second student recital couldn't have done it without the fish.

By Shinam Hussain
Contributing Writer

The second student recital took place on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the Recital Hall in the Baker Center for the Arts. Doors opened about 10 minutes before the show began at 6:30 p.m. and members of the audience were greeted at the door with programs detailing the five students set to perform for the evening. In contrast to the first student recital, which only highlighted two performances, there was an increased number of four performances this time and five student performers in total.

The recital began with soprano Madeline Olexy '24 delivering an enchanting rendition of "Nothing in Common" from the musical "Aucassin and Nicolette." The performance was captivating and beautiful, demanding full attention from the audience, which would be a common theme throughout the night. Following the beautiful delivery of Olexy's piece, Kiana Holmes '22, mezzo soprano, gave an animated performance of "Stars and the Moon" from the musical "Sages for A New World." While the mask mandate could have made it difficult for emotion to be conveyed through the music, this was not the case in Holmes' performance. Holmes accompanied her wonderful vocal performance with a series of animated and charming hand gestures that set the scene for the performance and engaged the audience. When asked about if COVID-19 affected the rehearsals or performances at all, Holmes stated, "It's not too bad to sing in a mask, and likewise, with our voice lessons, they've all been masked. And for the past year, all of our voice lessons have been online on Zoom, which has its own challenges." The restrictions brought forth by COVID-19 and Muhlenberg's current mask mandate have definitely been a challenge felt by the performers, but many are excited to be back in person with live shows to showcase their talents.

The third performance contrasted the—at times—whimsical "Stars and the Moon" rendition, with Hope Austin '25, soprano, delivering a showstopping performance of "Abendlied," composed by Robert Shumann. Austin dazzled the crowd with a stunning delivery of the German song. Austin, did not express much nervousness over her performance at Muhlenberg. When asked how she felt leading up to the performance, Austin answered, "A little nervous, but mostly excited! It's just really good to be performing live!" Austin spoke enthusiastically about the choice of music, gushing, "Schumann is a great composer, but I could geek out about that forever!" Austin echoed Holmes' sentiments about masking saying, "I'm not used to performing in a mask in a solo recital like this, that was a new challenge, but it really wasn't that much of a hindrance."

"I don't know. Of all the things, if I get to perform, I'll sing in a mask," said Austin.

The recital concluded with a laugh-inducing performance of "Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti," delivered by Isabella van der Weide '23, soprano, and Yael Beer '24, soprano. The song is about two cats fighting over a fish. This performance consisted of a single word, and yet evoked many laughs and chuckles from a very engaged audience. The single word is heard as "Miau," and through the performance, the word was repeated in different tones, and later, a paper prop fish was brought in to fully capture the audience. The fish served as a pivotal point of the performance, conveying the comedic argument the performers were delivering, as one kept snatching the fish away from the other. This concluding performance consisted of beautiful voices, which delivered an extremely engaging performance considering it was only one word, and a very important fish that drew out laughs from everyone in the audience.

After the performances were finished, many performers were able to converse and connect with their friends who came to support them. The second student recital was a display of how important and dear the performing arts are to not only the performers, but to the audience as well. Much of the audience was engaged and delighted all throughout the recital, as performers were finally able to showcase themselves and their talent in person. For many performers, COVID-19 has been, and will continue to be a challenge they are continuously learning to navigate, however, as long as they are able to perform, they are content.

"Each of the performances were so unique but still so interesting to watch," continued Ashley Kim '25, an audience member of the recital. "The gestures and props in the last performance made the show for me.

Photo courtesy of Madeline Olexy '22

Madeline Olexley '24 performs "Nothing in Common."

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believes. For her final story, Malik embodied the persona of a woman whose husband, a Muslim man, was a first responder after 9/11.

"I absolutely loved the show. She [Malik] is an amazing performer and playwright," stated Amanda Berkson '23. "As an actor, the way that she switched between characters was amazing. She changed the accents; the way they sit and talk. When we all walked out, my friends and I were all talking about how impressed we were."

After the performance ended, there was a talkback, where community members were able to engage with Malik and her piece. She then provided the names of several TED talks she felt were vital to further understanding the sociopolitical issues that face Muslim women in the United States and beyond.

"The fifth character was definitely my favorite, without a doubt," explained Joshua Myers '22, an audience member. "It made me think about how deeply rooted our stereotypes are as a society. More people need to hear stories like this in order to reverse the damage that has been done."

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were like, 'You know what? This? This is cool.' We can have diverse shows and we can take things that originally we've only seen the same kind of people be in, and we can put other people in them and we can make [art] for everyone."

Des Suarez '23, who played Juliet in the show also commented on her experience as a member of the cast saying that, "Working on this show was a special collaboration because as a student of color, this was the first space I was in where I had mates who looked like me or members of my family, and where my identity was truly cared for, and I hope the audience felt that open big gooey heart and felt a part of that in any way possible!"

"This play now, because we need to carve out more spaces for us to speak and to thrive and to live!" said Semaj in the program. "This play now, because the time is now for queer representation. This play now, because the time is now to decolonize our views on the classical literary canon and fill them with as many backgrounds and walks of life as possible. This play now, because the future is queer and there's no stopping it... The choice is yours, but the time is now."

Restore & Reconnect Day

(left) Alyssa Miles '25 flexing after a successful run through the inflatable obstacle course during the campus Restore & Reconnect Day.

Photo by Rachel Farrow/ Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The importance of queer education in schools

By Aevyn Barnett
Contributing Writer

When I came out as nonbinary/transgender during the summer before my sophomore year of high school, I was terrified. Of course, I was worried about how my parents would react, but more importantly, I was worried about school. My older sibling was too. We came out to each other as trans at the same time and came out at school together as well. It was great to have each other certainly, but that is where the "great" part ended. Why? Because we were the only two genderqueer people that were out in the entire school district. That's scary! How would people react? Would they accept us? Shun us? Beat us up? Would people use our preferred names and pronouns? Would they understand the language we were using to define ourselves? All these questions, and many more, circled through our minds as summer wound down and the first day of school loomed nearer.

Here's the thing though: It shouldn't have been that way. No one should ever be that scared to share an aspect of themselves with their community. No one should ever worry about being beaten up, or losing all their friends, or being disrespected by teachers and other authority figures. The question is, then, how do we change that? The answer is simple: education. If at any point prior to our coming out, identities like ours had been mentioned in the classroom, things would have been entirely different. Luckily, people generally reacted positively to my older sibling and me coming out, but that then added a new pressure: we were unofficially tasked with educating the entire community about everything queer.

Now don't get me wrong, I don't mind doing that work. But I shouldn't have to do all of it. There needs to be queer education in classrooms. In English class, let's discuss the singular "they" pronoun. In history, let's learn about the Stonewall riots and the AIDS epidemic. In science, let's hear about intersex individuals... there are so many areas where queer culture and theory fit in, so let's talk about it!

Now let's talk puberty. In fifth-grade health class, we were split by biological sex and taken to separate rooms to watch videos about puberty. As a biological female, I learned about breast development and periods. I have no idea what the males learned about. What's the problem with this? Not everyone goes through the puberty one would assume they would. For example: I went through female puberty, as expected, during my mid-to-late teen years. But, when I turned 18 and started taking Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), I was catapulted into male puberty. I grew hair in weird places, my libido and appetite increased dramatically and my genitals grew and changed—none of which I would have been prepared for had I not done the research on my own. I should have been taught about these changes when I was in health class. Everyone should be taught about all aspects of puberty because you never know what puberty or puberties someone might go through. Additionally, someone who is intersex, might go through aspects of both male and female puberty.

What about sex? Who remembers learning about sexual intercourse in school? "The penis enters the vagina and sperm is ejaculated through the tip of the penis. In order to prevent pregnancy, males must wear a condom." Great. But what about people that are not straight? Who is going to teach them about safe (and pleasurable) sex? Sure, they can do their own research and find out those things on their own, but do we really want to leave sex education to the internet and porn? Not to mention, it is a clear case of discrimination by omission to only teach about heteronormative sexual practices.

We're here, we're queer, and we want inclusive education in schools. How much effort is it, really, to add in one lesson in the entire year about queer identities? Not much. And how much of a positive effect can it have on young queer people to hear their identities and feelings being normalized? A lot. So, educators, take a hint. Let's bring queer education to the masses!

Tree house of Horror

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

It may just seem like a ripoff of a "The Simpsons" episode title, but it's true: Muhlenberg's infamous "tree house" is haunted. I would know – I live there! Over the past two months since we moved in, my roommates and I have observed an increasing level of activity that we've only been able to describe as paranormal. Phantom sights and sounds, items that move on their own and the ghost's most standard move: flickering lights on and off.

After three of the four of us had left for Fall Break, one of my roommates described an experience when she was alone. She had just "turned off all the lights downstairs... [she] was sitting on the couch and suddenly this sound pop[ped] in the kitchen and the lights turn[ed] on and this shadow travel[ed] across the downstairs area." Needless to say, she quickly left for break.

The so-called "motion sensor activated" light in the threshold of the house constantly flicks on and off without any prompting or movement, to the point where we now speak to the ghost when that happens. But that's commonplace, at this point, and easily dismissable – maybe something blew by outside and triggered it. Maybe its battery is just old. We've found ways to explain it away.

Less explainable was the phantom light that we saw the other day. An important note about the house: since move-in, we've never had access to the attic space. The door stays firmly locked and none of our keys work to open it. (We've tried.) So imagine our collective surprise when, from beneath that door, we spotted a bright light. It spilled out onto the floor of the hallway and did not waver. No shadows passed, no figures moved. When I finally worked up the nerve to move toward the door, my knock went unanswered. We debated calling Plant Ops but decided against it – for the best, apparently, given that the light had turned back off of its own accord by the time we all returned from class later in the afternoon.

We haven't stooped to the level of Ouija boards yet, but trust me, we're considering it. In the meantime, wish the tree house residents luck. And if you've got the contact information for any psychics or mediums, let me know.

Photo by Ally Duvak'22

Ally Duvak '22 tells her harrowing story of being haunted by a ghost.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

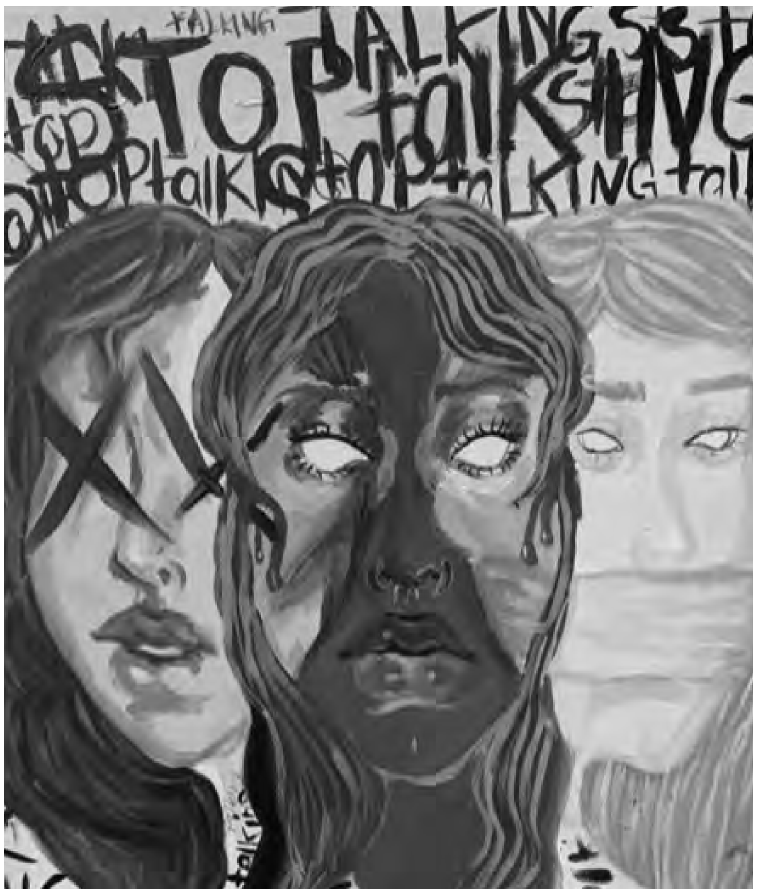
Home to who?

By Eva Cortes
Contributing Writer

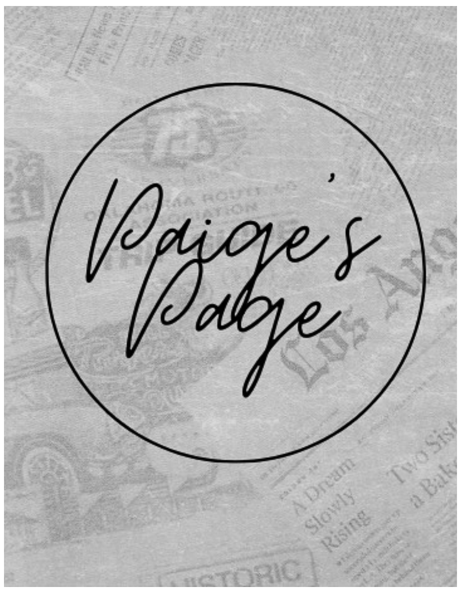
On October 12th, 2021, I participated in a screening of the movie "Guie'Dani's Navel." A part of the Latin American Film Festival on campus, I was assigned to go to at least two films for my Spanish 203 course. The movie explored ideas of classism, racism and the general attitude that the upper white class of Mexico have toward its indigenous population. Although I had to go for a grade, I was looking forward to watching the movie as someone who is Latina with a Taíno background.

I watched as the seats began to fill up with mostly white people. This did not surprise me. In the few months I have been here, I have already gotten used to the 70 percent white population. As more and more people showed up, the volume level increased. This also did not surprise me. What did alarm me however, was the fact that even when the movie began, the volume level did not go down. Instead, the white people in the audience took it upon themselves to not only interject, but to also laugh, point and clap throughout the film. Let me reiterate that this movie was not a comedy. It was not a performance that was supposed to be gawked at. Audience participation got so loud that at one point I had to put in my headphones in order for me to actually sit and enjoy the movie. Just sitting in the audience made me uncomfortable. I felt humiliated. I understand that most of the comments were not in bad intent. I also do not mean to shame people who are loud or are rowdy sometimes. However, how else am I supposed to understand this? Plain and simple, the movie was about racism and classism and the majority of the white, likely upper class audience treated it like it was a game show. I cannot see a way in which the context of the movie and roar of the audience's laughter can be separated.

I bet someone reading this is saying, "You're overreacting," or "Stop making everything about race." To that I ask, how many times have narratives gone like this? How many times have people of color (POC) voiced concerns to be told that they are overreacting? How many more times does it need to happen before we are taken seriously? This school prides itself on its commitment to progress and inclusivity, but honestly I have yet to see this outside of spaces that are only POC. Thank you so much for asking me my pronouns so you can correctly gender me as you continue to mispronounce my "exotic" name. I am personally tired of giving people the benefit of the doubt, and I know I am not the only POC on campus that has a similar experience. I also refuse to not speak up in regard for the comfort of the majority. I do not write this as a means of calling people out or publicly shaming those at the movie screening. At the induction ceremony, the overarching theme was "Welcome Home." I write this to ask, home to who?



Original Art by Eva Cortes



By Paige Weisburg
Contributing Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week′s edition of Paige's Page! This week we are going to be discussing surviving college and navigating independence. I really loved this topic because I think we are all relearning how to exist here in somewhat normalcy. I know I wasn't ready, but I think it's really comforting to know that I'm not alone in this. I would like to start this off by saying that it is totally okay if you are struggling right now. You are not alone, and you will get through this. Let′s get started!

Hi, Paige! I′m really having trouble with trying to balance different aspects of college life (eating, doing work, sleeping, etc). Do you have any advice?

Hey, bestie! This is such a hard thing to adjust to. Being here, I feel like I'm always on; I have social responsibilities and work, and I'm supposed to somehow find time for myself. It is a tough thing to navigate and I'm sure you're killing it. But in terms of balancing aspects of college life, I suggest combining your activities or multitasking when you can. You have to eat dinner before your class presentation and your friend has a story to tell you? Grab dinner together. You have to fold your laundry, but you need to call your mom to ask her about renewing your driver′s license? Fold and chat. Most, if not all, things you need to do can be done while you're doing other things. Try as hard as you can to multitask. When it comes to your work and your mental/physical health, however, you should prioritize these acts on their own. It is so hard to adjust to the workload in college especially with midterms right now. I have felt so burnt out from all of my other activities, but I have continued to ensure I can make the time to get my work done. All of this juggling makes me get extremely overwhelmed, and I have struggled to find ways to acknowledge when I may be having a hard time. I know it's easier said than done, but take whatever time you can for yourself because your body and your mind will thank you later. Sleep is the thing I have had the worst time with. I'm going to share the advice I use to survive here: Take a nap. You will not regret it. If you have a hard time sleeping at night like I do, you really should try to get those hours in. My biggest issue with sleep is that I feel like my only time to relax and be social is in the evenings, and so I will use that time to the fullest even though it may not always be the best for me to be staying up late. So, know your limits! I know it may not feel like it but you will figure out the best way to do things for yourself. It takes so much time; try not to stress!

I have an issue with independence and don′t have a ton of trust in myself even though I am trying so hard to let myself make mistakes. Any suggestions?

Hi, bestie! Being alone is hard. We were all just stuck at home for the last year and a half, and getting back out there will definitely take some time. I love that you are letting yourself make mistakes—that is super important. I tend to be a perfectionist and it's really difficult for me to allow myself the same grace. I love that we can learn from each other. Going to college was really stressful for me; I am super close to my parents and never really left home for long periods of time. I had to learn how to do everything on my own and that left me feeling really anxious and confused. You have to let yourself make those mistakes because being an independent person is something only you can figure out on your own. Trusting yourself is a huge part of finding this independence. I like to think that I have good instincts and my gut is usually right. Listen to whatever force inside of you tells you what is right. Maybe you have a little angel or devil on your shoulders, maybe independence, freedom and growing up are listening to the devil instead of the angel sometimes.

What are your tips for keeping it together when everyone is driving you insane?

Hi, bestie! It really is that time of the semester! Having your whole life contained on a tiny campus is really fun but it can get old and also very frustrating very quickly. I live close enough to home that when everyone is annoying me, I can go home and disconnect for a day or two. However, when I don't have the time for that, I lock myself in my room and don't speak to anyone. Hey, it's a healthy way to cope. I love to watch TV too; anything that will distract me and require no speaking. Everyone has those days where they just need to be alone, you don't owe anyone an explanation for that. It's also okay to communicate to those close to you that you need a break, or that they are frustrating you. Do what you need to do to keep yourself sane.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the @BergWeekly Instagram Linktree.

Photo courtesy of Emma Giordano ′23

‘Berg volleyball reaches its final set

By Rylan DeStefano
Contributing Writer

As the volleyball season comes to an end in less than a week, the team is more determined than ever to finish the season strongly. Sitting at a 10-12 overall record and 3-6 within the Centennial Conference, the Mules are hoping to end on a winning streak and finalize their turbulent season. With just two more games left, against Franklin & Marshall and Lebanon Valley, the team has two more chances to compete and play together before the season is finished. Throughout the season, the team has been motivated and concentrated on being the best version of themselves on the court, whether in practices or games.

Megan Ray ‘22, finishing up her last season as the only senior on the team, is focusing on spending these last few games with her teammates. “We prepare mentally by being present with one another each practice and supporting each other each step of the way,” says Ray.

The bond between each member of the team not only brings them together, but allows them to play at their highest potential. Ray also explains this bond even further, saying that, “The most important lesson I’ve learned from this experience is that it doesn’t matter how many wins and losses you have in your athletic career, what matters are the forever friends you’ve made who will be by your side for the rest of your life.” The team’s overall drive has been important, but the bond within this team is what makes this season so much more memorable.

Amirah Moody ‘23 gave insight into her mindset throughout the season, and feels strongly about the next two games coming up. “While our last game is on Saturday, we are excited because it is Senior Day, and we get to celebrate Megan [Ray], our only senior,” says Moody.

The team shows their support for all of their teammates, and will be there to support Ray during the final days of the season. Their coach, Rob McVicker, not only dedicates his time to making the team stronger, but he “preaches how we are a family, on and off the court,” Moody continued.

Coach McVicker gives his expectations for his team heading into their final days of the season. “We are continuing to work on our cohesiveness on the court through the end of the season,” he says. As his first full season being a coach, both him and the team have been adapting to one another. For McVicker, “I think my favorite moments have all come off the court, whether it’s getting to know the individuals better, or seeing them enjoying themselves before a practice or match.”

McVicker commends his players not only for their hard work and progression throughout the season, but also their excitement to be a cohesive unit that strengthens the team. Both the girls and the coach learned what they need to work on during the season. McVicker says, “You never know what each practice or match is going to bring, so being able to adjust on the fly is very important.”

There is no doubt that Ray is the cornerstone of the team. “Her growth as a player and leader during her time with the program has been a privilege to see,” McVicker says. Ray will be extremely missed by her teammates and coaches, as she brought a lot to the team during her four years contributing.

The team will finish their season off with one game away on the 27th, and their last game, home, at Memorial Hall on Saturday, Oct. 30.

Photo by Louis Cocco ‘23

Rachel Jacobs ‘25 jumps to spike the ball at the opponent.

Coach Tipping selected as hall-of-famer

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

Former Muhlenberg men’s soccer Head Coach Jeff Tipping was recently elected to become a member of the United Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame.

Tipping was the head coach of the men’s soccer team at Muhlenberg for 16 years, from 1986 to 2001. In those years, he guided the Mules to three Centennial Conference championships, one Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) championship, two MAC South titles and eight trips to the NCAA Division III Tournament, including an appearance in the “Final Four” in 1995. Tipping also coached the men’s golf team from 1996 to 2002, winning three Centennial Conference championships.

In 2006, Tipping was selected into the Muhlenberg College Athletic Hall of Fame not only for his accomplishments while coaching, but the impact he left on all his successors as well. Dave Weitzman, the current Muhlenberg women’s head soccer coach, and Todd Ervin ‘98, one of the current assistant coaches on the Muhlenberg men’s soccer staff, both played for and then coached alongside Tipping.

Weitzman spoke about how Tipping influenced his coaching career.

“Tipp[ing] was, in my opinion, not only a terrific college coach but the very best at teaching coaches how to coach, not just in this region but throughout the entire country. Tipp allowed me to get involved with all aspects of coaching at the college level— the recruiting, on field practice sessions, game management, working summer camps, etc… but he also opened up many doors for me to coach coaches as a regional technical director, coach my own youth teams and eventually take on the duties as a head coach of a high school program. I made every attempt to do exactly what I observed Tipp doing until I eventually had the confidence and experiences to shape and mold what worked for me. I was certainly at the right place at the right time and very fortunate and lucky to have such a wonderful friend and mentor.”

Ervin, who was also able to coach under and play for Tipping, spoke about how he impacted him as a player, saying, “Playing for Tipp was, for me, nothing short of incredible. And I’m not sure that statement is strong enough. Jeff [Tipping] had a way about him that I have not seen in anyone since my days at ‘Berg. He could motivate you to work way beyond your comfort level, teach you to play seamlessly as a team, develop you as an individual both on and off the field and make sure you had a good laugh while doing it all.”

Ervin also recalled Tipping’s famous saying. “Tipp had a saying that we used to have printed on all of our gear which was, ’Nil Satis Nisi Optimum.’ He borrowed it from Everton Football Club, and it means ‘Only the best will satisfy.’ The teams I was a part of at ‘Berg lived by that and it was something I was able to use to push me throughout the rest of my soccer career. Simply put, if I wasn’t at my best each and every day, it wasn’t good enough.”

The influence Tipping had on the Muhlenberg soccer program is evidently great. Along with Weitzman and Ervin, the current Muhlenberg men’s head soccer coach Sean Topping ‘98 also played under and coached alongside Tipping. In addition to his selection into the United Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame, Tipping will be inducted as a member of the Class of 2022 during the 82nd Annual United Soccer Coaches Convention, being held Jan. 19-23 in Kansas City, Missouri.

From **Tennis** page 12

ambitious goals and then helped us in reaching them,” said Benedict Kohler ‘23.

“He has taught us strategies on how to stay calm in difficult situations and how to regroup after losing important points,” said Maria Stere ‘22.

Not only was the Muhlenberg tennis team able to get to know and learn from Diop over the short fall season, but without him, the Mules would not have been able to compete. When DeLasCasas Kurvink was recently isolated due to contracting COVID-19, it was up to Diop to step into the interim head coach position and lead the men and women.

For him, this was both a humbling and challenging experience. “Apart from assisting my daughter’s coaches in high school and college, I did not have NCAA tennis experience. This was a big test when Head Coach David [DeLasCasas Kurvink] was put in quarantine. I am happy that I was able to step in and take the women’s team to victories in both of their away games of the fall season.”

Diop also acknowledged the Mules and their adjustment to the circumstances. “Players of both teams were very supportive and understanding of the situation. This made my job easy because it was a big challenge to step in for an excellent head coach,” said Diop.

Taking this opportunity in stride and leading the women’s team to an undefeated fall, with matches against Cedar Crest College and the Marywood University Pacers, they could not have succeeded without Diop. “Coach Diop stepped in when we needed him most because without him we couldn’t have practiced and won those matches. He was always on the court supporting us and giving us confidence on the court,” said Stere.

Kohler shared the same sentiment and was appreciative of Diop’s dedication during DeLasCasas’ time away from the team. “Diop took all of the practices as well as mentored us through our first match this season. Without him, we probably would not have been able to have competed in this match,” he said.

Besides the excitement of taking over as head coach on such short notice, Diop has had an altogether enjoyable time teaching and seeing the Mules thrive. As the Mules look ahead towards the spring, Diop has high hopes.

“Players’ motivation and willingness to make the difference gives me hope for a very successful upcoming spring season… [The] players’ attitude and work ethics give me the enjoyment to look forward to coming to practice every day,” said Diop.

From **Housing** page 4

sell delinquent or blighted properties so the lots can be redeveloped for more productive use, like increasing paths to homeownership for low-income families.

As Gerlach pointed out, Allentown is well on its way to developing a land bank, with the first land trust legislation passed this April, aimed at taking delinquent landowners to court and reclaiming the properties, which are then owned by a nonprofit or trust set up by the city. The Allentown Redevelopment Authority may soon be a designated land bank, with funding for property acquisition and rehabilitation mostly acquired through state and federal grants.

Gerlach and Tuerk both also point to the possibility of a points system in order to cut down on bad landlords exploiting subpar properties for extortionate amounts of rent. This proposed system would grade inspections on a scale, perhaps from A to F, and those receiving barely passing or failing grades would receive more frequent inspections. One problem with this system is that Allentown already doesn't have enough inspectors for the mandated inspections, so increasing frequency for problematic landlords would be difficult.

Tuerk says of the problem, "We're supposed to inspect our rental units, something like every five years. And I think it's probably north of eight, and maybe we're only doing inspections every 10 years. Housing can go south in less than a year." He also pointed out that with inspections so far apart, landlords have sometimes chosen to pay a fine rather than performing mandated improvements to their properties. Tuerk proposes using the recent $57 million Allentown received from the American Rescue Plan to hire more inspectors and digitize records.

"Housing can go south in less than a year."

Gerlach also raised the point of an accessible and centralized record of inspections. She pointed out that there is currently no easily searchable record of delinquent landlords for tenants, which leads to households getting stuck in properties that are falling apart with no warning and no easy way out. With a centralized system, tenants have a chance of avoiding getting trapped in leases with predatory slumlords. This would only work if Allentown housing became more available and less competitive, however, because as it stands residents have little choice when it comes to finding affordable units.

DeRitis warns that housing will be locked up for the foreseeable future. "Over the next five to 10 years, you have the millennial population coming of age. The first millennials are in their early 30s now, and that's right at the prime time for first time homebuyers historically. I believe the age of the first time homebuyer has been around 31 or 32 years. This sizable generation is also the second largest coming of age, entering those prime homebuying or whole household formation years. That's going to put a lot of demand out there."

At the same time, their parents, the baby boomers, are not giving up their properties," continues deRitis. "The dynamics are changing. People want to age in place, hang onto their homes."

"I don't see this as a short term issue because of the supply side of the market," deRitis finishes. "Changing zoning, or even if you have the green light to construct, that's a multi-year process typically to put up enough homes. This is going to be a problem that's with us for a while. It is certainly something that everyone needs to be aware of."

Mules track in running position

By Tom Hiller
Asst. Sports Editor

The Centennial Conference announced over the summer their plans for a full return to fall and winter sports heading into the 2021-2022 academic year. The conference had already approved schools to return to spring athletics, a test to determine if the conference can move forward into relaunching Centennial Athletics.

With only a few hiccups, spring Muhlenberg sports were able to make a full return last semester, including the men's and women's track and field teams.

Both teams are entering their first full winter preseason in two years. Their previous indoor season had been canceled due to the Centennial Conference decision to postpone winter athletics throughout the conference.

Men's track and field is returning this fall boasting hopeful aspirations, placing fourth overall in the Centennial Conference championship. While the women's team looks forward to needed improvements after placing bottom half, sixth, at the conference championships.

For many returning athletes under Head Coach Brad Hackett, being able to hit the track again is much needed. "I'm really excited to get started again as we have not only some new members but also a lot of experienced athletes. I think we will be competitive," said jumper John Panny '23.

Although some of the returning juniors and seniors have prior indoor track experience, the majority of both rosters are made up of underclassmen who have not yet competed inside of Deitrich Field House. Fellow jumper Jacob Brick '24 is excited to finally jump into indoor track. "It feels absolutely amazing to be back! I am so glad I am able to be with my team once again after such a long time away after an anything but normal season."

The Mules are still aware of the ongoing problems when it comes to COVID and ensuring athlete's health. Indoor practices require athletes to wear masks in order to stay compliant with COVID regulations.

They still mandate social distancing in most practice settings, and are still making sure their equipment is constantly cleaned and sanitized after each practice.

"In regards to protocols carried over from last year, we are making sure to clean equipment after we use it, maintaining social distance both inside and outside, wearing masks indoors even while working out as well as a few other things that remain in place to keep us and our school community safe," Brick said.

With both indoor and outdoor seasons back-to-back, there is not much room to recoup for athletes who participate in both sports. When the men's and women's track and field teams open their first invitational entitled the Fast Time Before Finals Meet on Dec. 4th at Lehigh University, they have little amount of breakage between meets until their season closer on May 16.

In order to manage their mental and physical health, members of the track team must take care of their bodies for the gruelling season. "Because track is strenuous to the body, my main focus right now is staying healthy and recovering as best as possible. This includes seeing the trainer, rehab, icing, eating properly and most importantly sleeping," said Panny. "Overall, slowly getting back into form while staying healthy is the key to properly preparing for the next seven months—or from now till May."

Hackett has also reminded his teams to prepare for the long stretch ahead. A lot of his training and practices focus upon ensuring his players are conditioned to make it to May, and securing Centennial Conference championships in both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

"He [Hackett] has a great coaching staff who preaches the same ideas: focusing on the mind, health and learning proper body mechanics in order to succeed—and of course having fun while doing so," said Panny.

For both Panny and Brick, they both personally want to succeed and "PR" (personal record) in their respective events, "I want to make it as far as possible to the national meet, and although it's an overarching task, I think setting standards and goals like this is important for success," said Panny. For Brick, "My largest goal that I currently have is to jump 40 or more feet in the triple jump, my main event. Last year I jumped [39 feet and 3 inches], so I'm close and excited to reach my goal by the end of the season with hard work and dedication."

COFFEE BREAKFASTBISCUIT
FLUFFYBUTTERMILKPANCAKES
LATTE VEGGIEWRAP HARVESTSALAD
LOCALPRETZELS LOCALDOG
WAFFLEMUFFIN GRILLEDCHEESE
COLDBREW POTATOWEDGES
DIRTYCHAI MILKSHAKE
CINNAMONROLL LOCALFREEZE
TEA CHIPS
SMOOTHIE
MATCHA
Jay's Local
AFFOGATO FLOAT
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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Amadou Diop brings a lifetime of experience to Mules tennis

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Coach Diop mentoring the women's tennis team during their match against Cedar Crest College on Sep. 25.

BY ALEX BLUM
SPORTS EDITOR

For the 2021-2022 season, Muhlenberg tennis has an entirely different duo at the helm. After three years under the sole leadership of Head Coach Jason Toedter, the Mules are now headed by Head Coach David DeLasCasas Kurvink and Assistant Coach Amadou Diop.

While DeLasCasas Kurvink arrived at Muhlenberg following a stellar coaching career at DeSales University, leading the program to several playoff appearances, Diop joined him with over 40 years worth of experience to give to Muhlenberg's tennis program.

Since moving to Allentown from Senegal in January 1996, Diop has been an integral part of the community. As a certified coach, Diop has not only coached his daughter Aida since she was four years old, but he has also mentored youths all across the Lehigh Valley.

Teaching workshops specializing in children ages 10 and under, and being certified by the Professional Tennis Registry to coach children from ages 11-14, Diop created AMCO Tennis in June 2008 with the purpose of increasing the appreciation for tennis throughout the Valley.

Although AMCO Tennis is based in and around the Allentown community, Diop also started a program back in Senegal where children can learn to play tennis and expand their love for the game. Held at a tennis facility in the city of Saint-Louis, Diop provides racquets, uniforms and enough tennis balls for all of his students.

Still, when he is not attending to AMCO Tennis or his Senegal program, Diop serves on the coaching staff for the Kids Play Tennis programs at Oakmont Tennis Club and Bethlehem Community Park and for the Allentown Tennis Program at Lower Macungie and Macungie parks.

Despite all of the work Diop does away from Muhlenberg, he is forever tied to the campus. Diop received an honorary doctorate from the College in 2003. Diop also holds a Ph.D. in crop science from Oregon State University. "Muhlenberg is my second college after Oregon State University," Diop said.

However, Diop's relationship with Muhlenberg goes back further, to the time when he served as The Rodale Institute's international program director. "My connection with Muhlenberg College started in 1997 after meeting with [Professor] Rich Niesenbaum who participated in our international programs at The Rodale Institute," said Diop.

In addition to working with Niesenbaum, who was instrumental in nominating him for the honorary doctoral degree, Diop has previously worked at Muhlenberg in the biology and French departments as a visiting lecturer and most recently has taught Wolof to exchange students in Senegal with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Culture.

Not only is Diop proficient in Wolof, but he is fluent in four other languages: English, Spanish, French and Russian.

With all of this incredible experience and personal history with Muhlenberg, Diop accepted the assistant coaching position with open arms. "On top of all this, my lovely wife Awa made me popular at the College as well. I am always introduced as 'Awa's Husband' because she is the favorite Sodexo employee of many students. So, I was excited when Head Coach David [DeLasCasas Kurvink] invited me to join the coaching staff," Diop said.

Diop's excitement to help Muhlenberg tennis is apparent, and with that, he hopes to bring all of his experiences together and impart valuable lessons on the men's and women's teams. "My experiences from four college campuses in four continents: Africa, Europe, Asia and America: one year of college in Senegal, six years of college in Russia, two years of college in The Philippines, and four years [at] Oregon State University. I played handball in college in Russia, and soccer in Senegal. Therefore, I hope to bring some diversity, hard work and adaptation to new environments."

In fact, Diop's presence is starting to be felt by members of the team. "From the start of the semester, Coach Diop has brought a great amount of positive energy to the team pushing us to reach our goals. For example, [at] the first meeting he highlighted the importance of setting

SEE **TENNIS** PAGE 11

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Oct. 28 - Nov. 4

Volleyball	Women's Soccer	Football	Men's Soccer
MUHLENBERG vs ***LEBANON VALLEY***	***MUHLENBERG*** vs ***GETTYSBURG***	***MUHLENBERG*** vs ***FRANKLIN & MARSHALL***	***MUHLENBERG*** vs ***GETTYSBURG***
Saturday, Oct. 30 @ 12:00 p.m.	Saturday, Oct. 30 @ 4:00 p.m.	Saturday, Oct. 30 @ 1:00 p.m.	Satuday, Oct. 30 @ 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall	Varsity Field	Lancaster, Pa.	Varsity Field

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The scoop on the Udder Bar challenge

Photo by Joe Romano '23/Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Lucie Hopkins '22 and Joel Hark '22 take on the Udder Bar Challenge.

By Cydney Wilson
Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 29, twenty eager pairs of students gathered in the Seegers Union Event Space to participate in Muhlenberg's inaugural Udder Bar Challenge. The contestants battled it out to see who could be first to finish a monstrous 15 scoops of ice cream, two bananas, two cookies, a brownie and various toppings. Vegan and gluten-free options were available. The room abounded with strategies, some folks melted their ice cream, others tied garbage bags around their necks so they wouldn't have to waste time reaching for it in case of an emergency.

Zaire Carter '22, Student Government Association (SGA) president introduced the event and shared the rules. Due to COVID, the contestants were not allowed to eat from the same bucket. Emergency Medical Services were present, and it was announced that if students threw up, they would no longer be able to participate. If participants violated any COVID guidelines, they had to freeze participation for two minutes. Members of SGA monitored the room, to ensure rules were followed.

SGA executive board members Danny Burden '23, treasurer, and Anna Connolly '23, recording secretary, conceived of the idea for the event.

Connolly said, "This past summer, Danny [Burden] and I finished the Ben and Jerry's 'Vermonster,' which has always been a dream of mine. At the beginning of this semester, we were told about the Udder Bar Challenge, and immediately looked into it. We are very passionate about ice cream and thought that this would be a great thing to bring to Muhlenberg."

Burden added, "I believe that ice cream is very good for your brain, and that everyone should enjoy it."

Much thought went into the planning of the event. Burden shared, "Event planning is very challenging. I was very nervous in the days leading up to the challenge. We had a few scares the week of the event regarding policies, safety of competitors, as well as eagerly waiting for deliveries that were needed for the event."

Connolly added, "Any time that you are dealing with food, there are always challenges. We wanted to make sure that we were inclusive of all dietary restrictions and allergies. Vegan ice cream was a priority when planning the event and we made sure to provide accommodations for participants if requested. We were also very cautious of allergens and cross contamination when building the challenge buckets."

Before the competition, students were excited for the task ahead.

Leah Toomey '24, who partnered with Tanner Klingenberg '23, said she was feeling, "Ready. I'm starving. We haven't eaten all day."

Klingenberg also felt good about the competition saying, "We have a strategy. We have a game plan."

Some pairs weren't quite on the same page. Lucie Hopkins '22 said, "We're gonna lose." Conversely, her partner Joel Hark '22 was confident about the challenge ahead. He said, "Our game plan: We're gonna start fast, we're gonna go fast in the middle, and we're gonna finish fast." Unfortunately, they did not finish fast.

The event kicked off at 3:24 p.m. Contestants launched into their buckets while crowds gathered at each table cheering them on. Families who had begun to gather for the upcoming Family Weekend also filled the room, and a long line of audience members eager to get their own scoops of Udder Bar ice cream formed. While a full hour was allotted for contestants, the winning pair polished off their bucket at 3:37 p.m., in just 13 minutes. Cameron Emam '23 and The Weekly's own Assistant Sports Editor Tom Hiller '23 demolished their 15 scoops and the toppings. For those who did not finish their buckets, they were given a lid to take them home.

Burden and Connolly believe the event was successful. Connolly said, "We would love to hold this event in the future. We would ideally like to see it become an annual event that continues beyond our time at Muhlenberg."

Audience member Alexandra Rivers '22 said, "I'll be honest, going in, I was just nervous someone would throw up. But no one did, and I got free ice cream out of it, so I'd call it a lot of fun!"

The winners, too, enjoyed the event and were proud of their accomplishment.

Hiller shared, "I saw it as a fun opportunity... I wanted to prove that not only could I finish it but I could win. I had a lot of fun during the challenge; however, it certainly was an endeavor. Cam [Emam] and I both won 100 bucks in 'Berg bucks, a free T-shirt and a $25 gift card from Udder Bar. The only thing I'd change was how I felt after the challenge—I don't wish what I went through to anyone."

Emam was feeling good after the challenge. "Coming into the challenge, I was pretty hungry even though I just ate lunch. But I was pretty excited just because I got to eat some free food. Once the challenge started, it revealed my true love for ice cream and my inner Joey Chestnut came out. From there on out, it was just another day in the park. When me and Tom [Hiller] won, I remembered something one of my great role models once said, 'undefeated, never lost,'-LaVar Ball. I live by those words every day of my life. I then went to dinner with my parents and ate again, it was a great day."

Disclaimer: The Weekly and this author do not endorse competitive eating.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Ayden Levine
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Sara Vigneri
Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

10/25/2021
N. 23rd Street (400 BLK): Report of fire alarm from Co2 detector, Allentown Fire Department responded, UGI responded, Plant Operations responded, problem found with hot water heater in neighboring residence.

10/26/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of assault and harassment, investigation to continue.

10/27/2021
New Science Building: Report of sick student, Student Health Services notified, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport at this time.
Broen Hall: report to transport student to hospital.
Walz hall: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): Report of disturbance, Dean of Students office notified, individuals spoken to, no further incident
Prosser Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident at this time.
Walz Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, Student Health Services notified, Residential Services notified, no further incident at this time.

10/28/2021
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
10/29/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
Leh Street: Report of minor motor vehicle accident, individuals to exchange insurance information, no further incident.
Brown Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport

10/30/2021
Seegers Union: Report of intoxicated student, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset, work order placed for Plant Operations to check.
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from burnt food, system silenced and reset.
Albright Street (400 BLK): Report of fire alarm from baking, system silenced and reset.
East Hall: Report to transport student to hospital.
Moyer Hall: Report of illegally parked vehicle, upon arrival owner moved vehicle.

10/31/2021
Moyer Hall: Report of vehicle stuck in grass, towing company called to respond, they will have to return in the morning to remove vehicle.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset, work order placed for Plant Operations to check.
Liberty Street: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

Bring Home a Slice of Muhlenberg this Thanksgiving!

Enjoy a delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meal freshly prepared by the Muhlenberg culinary team. The heat-and-enjoy meal serves 8-10 people and includes your choice of apple or pumpkin pie.

Just need baked goods? Order from our delicious a la carte menu of fresh-baked breads, cakes, and pies.

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RED DOOR CATERING

Family weekend returns after COVID

By Gabi Hirshfield
Contributing Writer

During the weekend of Oct. 29, the Muhlenberg community welcomed people to campus from far and wide for Family Weekend. This is a special time during the semester where students get to show off all of the aspects of their college experiences to their families.

This year was significant for students, as Family Weekend was virtual last year due to the pandemic.

Dean of Students Allison Williams talked about the way that planning Family Weekend this year differed from other years. "We knew families would be very eager to come to campus for Family Weekend given that last year was virtual due to COVID. So we started early, thinking about what requirements were necessary to ensure a fun and engaging weekend, while also making sure it would be healthy and safe for all attendees."

Ellen Lentine, the director of Student Organizations, Leadership, and Engagement added, "Since so many parents missed Family Weekend last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipated hosting more family members this year than ever before—and we were right! Before the pandemic, we would see about 800 to 900 guests and this year we saw well over 1500."

The College required that everyone visiting campus be vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status. Williams described this important aspect of Family Weekend saying, "This helps to ensure that in these higher risk settings, we are taking significant precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our college community and visitors." The College emphasized its commitment to making this a wonderful and safe weekend for everyone involved.

A large adjustment made to the visitor policy was instituted this weekend. Vaccinated, pre-registered family members were allowed access to students' residential spaces. Visitors needed to wear their family weekend lanyards, and visitors under twelve were not allowed in residential spaces. This was meant to be a trial run for the admittance of non-Muhlenberg individuals into dorms starting on Nov. 5. Future adjustments to the visitor policy have yet to be announced.

Williams discussed the ways in which Family Weekend can be special, saying, "Families are so incredibly proud when they can come and see the experience their student is having and the ways in which they have made this place their own. It's a great feeling all around!"

There were many events throughout the weekend, including a large festival, sporting events, arts showcases and religious services and events. One of these included actress and star of NBC's "The Office" Kate Flannery making a visit to the College for a talkback with families.

Rebecca Salkin '24 talked about her favorite parts of Family Weekend saying, "I loved being able to show my parents my favorite parts of campus and also going to Shabbat dinner and sharing that with them."

Among the many events, students really enjoyed the Family Festival in the Life Sports Center field house on Saturday afternoon. This was full of many activities for students and their families. There was a station where students could pick up a bamboo plant, a table for Stuff-A-Plush and pillow making and even a station where people could make their own Halloween-themed socks. Muhlenberg Dining Services also provided a spread of desserts and snacks for students and their families.

Derek George '24 expressed his feelings on the festival saying, "It's just great to see everyone's families come out and support the school and support the students. It's really nice to see the awesome activities the school has set up for us."

Students found it very special to share aspects of their college lives with their families. Maya Schlesinger '24 stated, "My favorite part about [Family] Weekend has been getting together with my family and my friends' families and just walking around and showing everyone my classrooms and just reminiscing."

Jacob Kunsman '24 thought the same, saying that, "Being able to show my family everything in my college life and interact with them when I've been away from them for a long time is really special to me. It's cool to be able to introduce them to something that they don't know much about."

The parents were very excited to be welcomed onto campus. Kristin Harvey-Kunsman, a Muhlenberg parent, talked about her favorite parts of Family Weekend saying, "I would say the festival was my favorite. I really enjoyed the performances by the students, but I think what stands out to me was having the opportunity to meet all of the parents and families of Jacob's friends. Being able to establish connections and friendships with Muhlenberg parents really made me feel involved and part of the Muhlenberg community."

Another special event that happened over the course of the weekend was the First Time Dean's List Recognition Ceremony. This ceremony recognized outstanding academic achievement. Michelle Deegan, dean of academic life, found this event incredibly important. She stated, "I love welcoming families because I get to see how happy and proud they are of their children. I host the First Time Dean′s List event which is a space of smiles and pride. I get to talk to parents who are happy to share stories about their children with me. The Dean′s List event is my favorite, of course!"

Family Weekend was a hit all around as students enjoyed sharing their Muhlenberg experiences with their families. This special weekend brought the larger Muhlenberg community together in an amazing way.

Campus and community celebrate Halloween

By Saoirse Ozkan
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg held several Halloween festivities this weekend, with students excited for activities that they once avoided due to pandemic concerns. Now, with a better idea on how to handle COVID restrictions, the community was able to get back into the full-swing of things, with groups all over the College coming together to share the weekend festivities.

It was clear that students very much enjoyed the holiday; walking through dorms and college housing, it would have been difficult to miss blow-up decorations, plastic skeletons and candy for people to enjoy. Greek life and other organizations on campus also brought people together to snack and socialize.

Delta Tau Delta organized a haunted house in the Hoffman House on Oct. 28. There was a large crowd and the entire ground floor was in use. There were fog machines and strobe lights (warning beforehand). All proceeds went to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. Danny Milkis '23 commented on this annual tradition saying, "having it come back after two full years was certainly very special, since most of our brothers had never experienced a haunted Hoffman House before."

The Office of Multicultural Life (OML) was another one of those busy groups this past weekend, hosting both a Halloween party and a step dance performance from the Mayhem Step Team back-to-back on Saturday, Oct. 30.

OML's Halloween party was held in previous years as a small event only for the office and affinity groups. Director of OML Robin Riley-Casey noted that "with how much trauma people have experienced these past two years," they felt it was important to share this time with the community around them and reach out to other college organizations to make a truly fantastic event. Almost every Greek life organization on campus was involved in the event, from setting up, to decorating, to staffing the hall and acting as 'scarers' for the haunted house; they were eager to help on top of their own celebrations. Even those who could not make the event offered decorations for it, showing how much students valued the events.

Bianca Bolt, the event organizer, said of the event, "It was the best way to introduce multicultural life into the public." The event brought together people of all identities to share an evening together. A good portion of Muhlenberg showed up costumed as angels, plague doctors, cowboys and an assortment of other people and creatures to participate in the costume contest, which was won by one striking Patrick Star entry. As Riley-Casey said, "It was all about having a good time and sharing it with the community at large."

Mayhem's step dance performance, entitled "Stomp Out the Graveyard," fit in well with the theme of the holiday and featured fog machines. The event succeeded in bringing the community together, and the Great Room was filled with students and families alike. Performing with Mayhem were the groups Zion and the Rhythm Riders, from Albright and Moravian Colleges respectively.

Riley-Casey stated how important it was to see the wonder that was Mayhem in action. "There was so much energy in the room, it started to draw people in," they said, describing the unprecedented numbers that appeared in attendance that night. They had been expecting maybe 200 audience members that night, but it was guessed that visiting family members and the atmosphere of the event swelled their numbers to nearly 300, all appreciating the work of the step dancers in front.

So many cultures and people have come together this season and Muhlenberg has risen to the occasion in bringing the community together despite difficulties with COVID restrictions. Of course, this isn't a part of the College that is going to fade with the Halloween season. This is only indicative of what the campus will be like in the future, welcoming people with open arms.

Photo by Ayden Levine '23

Mayhem Step Team at their performance on Saturday, October 30.

The sad fate of "recyclable" plastic

By Amanda Clark
Contributing Writer

Photo by Ayden Levine '23

"We're such a disposable society. We don't ever think to think to reuse something or come up with different purposes for stuff."

Editor's Note: This article was originally published online for the BergBeat publication.

It all starts with the story of a plastic bottle.

It's a beautiful, sunny day on Muhlenberg College's campus, and you decide to run to General's Quarters to grab a refreshing bottle of lemonade. Once you sip down the very last drop, you chuck it in the recycling bin, feeling great because you know the plastic will end up being reused.

But according to the EPA, only 8.7 percent of plastic actually gets recycled. So where exactly is your lemonade bottle going?

A few days after you threw your bottle into the blue dumpster right outside your dorm, a truck comes by and picks up a load of plastics, papers and cans. It then heads to Waste Management's materials recovery facility in Allentown, where all of its contents, including your plastic lemonade bottle, are dumped onto the floor before making their way to a conveyor belt.

First stop on the journey through the facility: the picking station. Here, workers use their hands to pick out all of the "contaminants" they can find—the bowling balls, toys and wrappers that consumers "wish-recycled" (a common term in the waste management industry used to describe consumers who threw trash into the recycling bin hoping that these products would get reused).

This is the first step of weeding out what can actually get recycled. A full truckload of plastics has now dwindled down to a small pile.

But thankfully, your plastic bottle made it through, as most thicker, larger plastic containers do. It chugs along on the conveyor belt next to cardboard, milk jugs and aluminum cans, as flimsy, serving-size yogurt cups and greasy pizza boxes are picked out and sent to a landfill.

Slowly, your lemonade bottle makes its way down the conveyor belt, as paper and cardboard, glass and aluminum cans are separated out by big, rotating machinery.

But suddenly, the gears grind to a halt. Wish-recycled plastic bags that weren't picked out in time have made their way into the machinery, wrapping around the gears and making it impossible for the system to work. Your plastic bottle remains lying idly by as workers crawl into the machine, slowly cutting away the soft, flexible plastic with razor blades.

This happens in most recycling facilities multiple times a day, losing the facility so much time and money that plastic bags are derisively termed "the poison of the recycling system" by Dieter Scheel, the manager of business development at Sustainable Waste Solutions, which handles Muhlenberg's waste.

When the plastic bags are finally cut out and the facility can get back to business, your lemonade bottle is scanned by lasers to determine what type of plastic it is made of. Air jets then propel the bottle and the other plastics around it into separate bins. All of this plastic is then ground up and sold to manufacturers, who will melt the material down to make a new plastic product.

But there's a problem—there aren't actually that many manufacturers that want this raw plastic material. This means your shredded plastic lemonade bottle could just end up sitting around in the recycling facility. Or maybe it hasn't even made it that far. Maybe the recycling facility was inundated with more plastic than it could sell, so your bottle went right back to the landfill.

This probably isn't happening very much to items recycled at Muhlenberg. "Muhlenberg's waste hauler is very proactive," explained Kalyna Procyk, Muhlenberg's Campus Sustainability Coordinator. "They aggressively try to find markets for our plastics." But that isn't the case in all areas, which means that your recyclables at home could end up in the same landfill as your trash.

"Recycling is actually really rare—there are very large areas of the country where it is easier to landfill than to recycle," says Scheel.

This is largely due to industry influences that have changed the economic plausibility of companies making plastic products out of recycled material. Plastic, which is made out of petroleum, is influenced by the fluctuations in oil prices. Crude oil prices have gone down significantly since a spike in 2011, making it much easier for companies to make plastic at a low price.

It isn't just low oil prices that are driving the increase in plastic production—marketing is making a difference too. As countries and consumers transition to renewable energy sources to power cars and electrical grids, more and more oil companies are turning to single use plastics as the primary market for their product. In fact, oil companies are pushing their product in this direction so much that a World Economic Forum report projects that by 2050, plastic will account for 20 percent of global annual oil consumption.

Oil and plastic corporations working in cahoots means that manufacturers can save a lot more money by producing new plastics instead of using the bundles of recycled materials bought from recycling facilities like Waste Management's materials recovery facility in Allentown. This makes it a lot harder for recycling facilities to find a destination for used plastic goods.

Although companies might be saving money by making new plastics, it can be a drawback not only for the natural environment, but for the economy. According to a report published by the Ellen MacArthur foundation, 95 percent of plastic packaging material value, or $80–120 billion annually, is lost to the economy when single-use plastic items aren't recycled.

The report also shows that the environmental degradation caused by the greenhouse gasses emitted during the creation of virgin plastics and the litter from the finished products costs roughly $40 billion. This means that the cost to clean up the damage from making new plastics costs more than the profits the industry reaps each year.

Plastics aren't just awful for our environment, they are causing harm to our governments, our communities and our economies. But plastic companies don't want us to know that. Instead, they keep us focused on recycling.

Recycling isn't an absolute solution to our plastic problem. According to a research article published by Science Advances, plastics that do actually get recycled are almost always turned into lower value products that can't be recycled again. Right now, recycling is just a temporary delay of the inevitable: the landfill.

But the plastic industry knows that if consumers were actually aware of all of this, their money would be at risk. To keep selling their product, these corporations keep the focus on what consumers can do on the back-end of consumption, rather than what they can do on the frontend of production.

But here's a shocking fact, the introduction of plastic recycling was actually funded by oil and plastic companies according to Lew Freeman, former vice president of the Society of the Plastics Industry in the PBS documentary Plastic Wars. Amidst backlash in the 1980's from consumers and environmentalists who were concerned about the overwhelming amount of plastic waste, top oil and plastic corporation executives decided that recycling was the perfect solution to their public image problem–it would distract consumers while allowing corporations to continue making plastics–and money.

It didn't really matter to these corporations whether or not plastic actually got recycled. In fact, the less plastic that did get reused in products, the more money they would continue to make in the creation of new plastics. Recycling was just a tool to keep consumers ignorant.

This wasn't just a problem in the '80s. The plastic industry is still actively keeping consumers blind to the impact of plastics by pretending that recycling is actually effective.

One way corporations keep us ignorant: the use of the triangular recycling sign on plastic items. "People turn the package over and think it's recyclable," says Scheel. "Unfortunately that's not the truth."

Those little recycling symbols don't mean that a product is recyclable. They are just an indicator that will attract the eye to the little number housed within the triangle, the number that tells us what kind of plastic a product is made of.

The numbers themselves are so confusing that even waste management and sustainability experts disagree on how consumers should decide whether or not something should be thrown into the recycling bin.

"Ones and twos can still be recycled locally, but threes through sevens require shipping somewhere else. And right now there's less of a market," says Procyk. "My opinion is keep recycling until we receive official word that we have to totally change our recycling program. I'm gonna have faith that they are finding ways to recycle as much of our plastic as possible."

Muhlenberg Plant Operations Manager Jim Bolton takes a dif-

See **Plastic** page 11

"Those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music."

-Nietzsche

MTA studio productions hit the stage

Photo by Joey Marcacci '23

The cast of "Guest Speaker" in performance.

By Matthew Baresh
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Theater Association showcased both the acting and producing skills of its members in the Trexler Pavilion for Theater and Dance this past weekend. The unique collection of student-produced plays left the audience feeling every emotion, from bright and lively to somber and moved. These plays included "Dandelions," written and directed by Clarissa Shirley '22; "The Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allen Poe, directed by Bekka Broyles '22; "Guest Speaker," written and directed by Joey Marcacci '23; and "Scared Silly," written by Don Zolidis and directed by Eden Kaufman '23.

This year's productions were many of the students' first taste of producing and directing plays by themselves, and many of them enjoyed this exciting and new process.

Aidan White '25, an actor in "Scared Silly," shared, "I really think that this year's studios meant a lot for the majority of people working on them. For some of us, myself included, it was a return to live performance that we have been desperately seeking for over a year now. For many of us, this is our first Muhlenberg live theater debut. It gave them the chance to use the skills that they have learned here at Muhlenberg. I think it's fair to say that we all loved the opportunity to be a part of the Studios and I really think it shows."

With total freedom and range, the topics in these plays are entirely unique from one another. "Dandelions" featured three accounts of abuse and its psychological effects on the three characters. "The Masque of the Red Death" was a rendition of Edgar Allen Poe and his account of the "Red Death," a fictitious and deadly disease that destroys a king and his colleagues. "Guest Speaker" showcased a guest speaker who was invited to speak at a high school. Lastly, "Scared Silly" included four 10 minute plays from a ghost placement agency to a student finding a killer among their friends.

> **"For many of us, this is our first Muhlenberg live theater debut."**

"'Dandelions' was a very heavy show, but the entire cast and creative team, especially our director Clarissa Shirley, was so understanding and respectful of our boundaries throughout the whole process. It was such an important story to tell to bring survivors' stories to light and as an education tool to start essential conversations surrounding domestic violence, intimate partner abuse, pedophilia, victim blaming and more," explained Julianne Lucas '24, an actress in the production. "I hope that people who saw the show walked out not only with a way to start those conversations, but also with a newfound appreciation for and understanding of how art can be a catalyst for social change."

Two of the productions featured very serious topics of assault and internal struggles, having the audience encapsulated in its realness.

"I was surprised by how well the actors interacted with the audience. It wasn't too extra and over-the-top and the audience was pretty responsive. I also thought the lighting was really impressive," explained Serena Albahary '24, a viewer of "The Masque of the Red Death."

There was definitely an overarching positive reaction from the audience of all four productions as the talent of every student was showcased.

Giovanna Evans '21, an audience member of "Dandelions," shared, "I personally loved the show and thought it was really well made and directed. The plot was super captivating and all of the actors were incredibly talented."

The students made each production with such a passion for theater that was shown in the quality of both aspects of acting and producing. The Muhlenberg Theater Association has done it again this year with a very successful weekend full of every emotion.

Justin Walker '25, the king in "The Masque of the Red Death," said, "I enjoyed every aspect of the productions from lighting, set design, sound—everything was done terrifically. For some of us, myself included, it was our first time working on a devised piece, so being given that experience was wonderful. That being said, the process of devising worked very well for this show, as everyone was able to add bits and pieces of their ideas throughout the show."

"Retrospectives" premieres at family weekend

By Danny Milkis
Arts and Culture Editor

Photo by Rebecca Clark '23/ Muhlenberg Theater and Dance Department

Laura Fisher '23, Molly Layden '24, Emily Leandro '22, and Dani Medvedovski '24 in Resonance of a Soul.

A hush fell over the audience, packed from corner to corner of the auditorium, as the lights in the Dorothy Hess Baker Theatre slowly dimmed. The curtain rose, revealing an ensemble of dancers. Expressions of passion and dread sold the intricate story behind this piece, and all of the rest to follow, as an evening of emotional, moving avant-garde choreography took hold of an already captivated audience.

"Retrospectives," a series of performances presented by the Muhlenberg Dance Association (MDA) premiered on Friday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. There were three total showings, with another on Saturday evening 8 p.m., a matinee show on Sunday at 2 p.m., and a dress rehearsal on Thursday evening.

The entire production was made up solely of original, student-produced work, including that of both student choreographers and student dancers. Furthermore, "Retrospectives" featured choreography from MDA members Emily Bassett '22, Erika Dubin '23, Anya Epstein '22, Charis Hall '23, Nicole Lamprinos '24, Isabella Pansera '23 and Hannah Warren '23.

The production team behind "Retrospectives" was compact and full of strikingly talented and incredibly detail-oriented artists. The show's artistic directors were MDA co-presidents Kate McCowan '22 and Allison Goldman '22, who were joined by stage manager Carlie Nieman '23 and faculty advisor Natalie Gotter, visiting assistant professor of dance.

"I had the idea of walking on eggshells being the theme for a piece bouncing around my head since 'Ephemerality' last semester," said Pansera, referencing a dance showcase performed in April 2021. "When 'Retrospectives' was announced, my idea for that theme fit. They had changed the requirements to choreograph, and I was ready to go immediately. I took the theme and what immediate movement concepts came to me and the dancers I got, and just started creating a very loose storyline, and just let the work become what it did by itself."

Pansera's "Eggshells," which was set to the rooted, driving piano melody of Dirk Maassen's "La Mer," developed into something complex, electric and uptempo as the piece progressed into Mac

See **Retrospectives** page 7

'Berg choir performs first semester concert

By Ian Clark
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Zach Kleiman '25

The Muhlenberg College choir performing over Family Weekend.

During Family Weekend, the Muhlenberg College choir had its inaugural show of the semester. Not only was it the first general performance, but it was also the first performance with new music director Néviton Barros, DMA, adjunct professor of music. Barros programmed a selection of challenging and diverse songs for the choir to sing, in a performance entitled "Everything Is Going To Be Okay," a title that embodies Barros' message of positivity that he talked about in his introductory speech. Through this show, Barros wanted to combat fears and anxiousness following the emotional turmoil of the past year and a half and that eventually, life will calm down.

A member of the choir, Steven Belloise '25, appreciated Barros' commitment to having a diverse range of songs. He described the songs as "really beautiful," and explained that "Dr. Barros really brought a lot of songs from different cultures into our program. For example, 'Wangol' is a song in Haitian Creole... Some are Italian, one's German and there's a [South] African song, 'Ukuthula.'" Barros' choices to use these diverse songs highlight how the COVID-19 pandemic has been a global issue that has affected everyone, but in all these times of turmoil and stress, there is a positive light at the end of the tunnel.

Within the array of diverse songs, Barros also added a few more contemporary pieces. The standout of these two was "One Day More," from the musical Les Misèrables. This song, in this context, not only adds a bit of familiarity to the selection but also within the title and lyrics lay a message about how it is only "one day more" until freedom and happiness, "one day more" until hope truly comes. This perfectly aligns with Barros' overarching message that "Everything Is Going To Be Okay" and that the feeling of relief is not too far away.

Belloise also commented on the difficulty presented by the diverse set. Even with the challenge posed by them, he is "really proud of the work that we all put into it. I think I'm glad Barros challenged us because all the songs on the day came out very nice... I felt like we as a choir did a really great job. And even though there are a lot of times when the songs are frustrating and difficult to deal with, I'm glad that ultimately we overcame it."

"I enjoyed the challenge and experience of singing such an eclectic program," stated Josh Freeman '23, a long-time member of the College Choir and Chamber Choir.

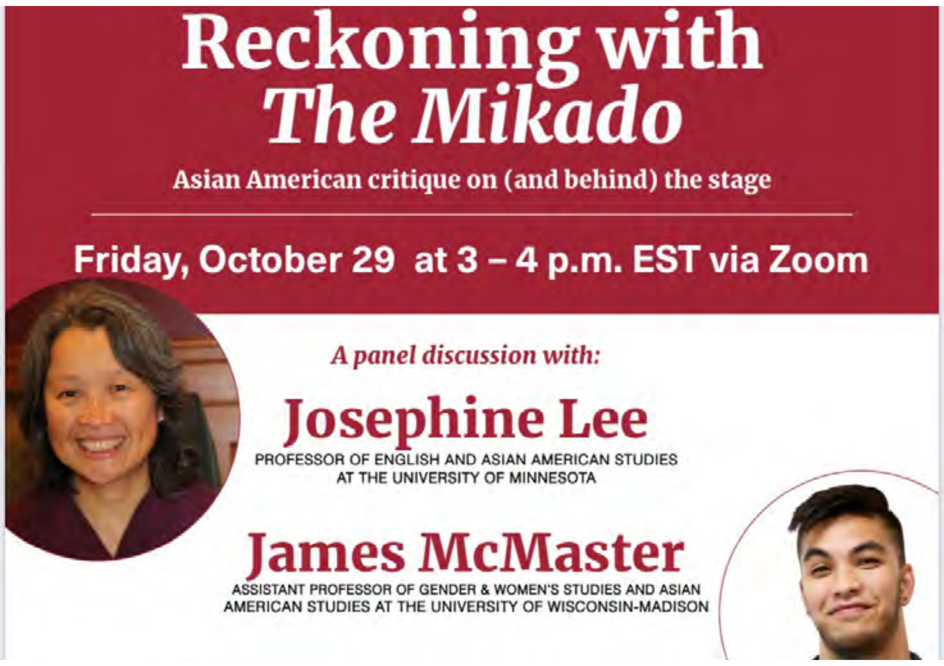
Beyond the song choices, Barros has made a definite impact on the students of the choir even within his first year. Another choir member, Sam Tempkin '25 said, "[Barros] really challenged our musical abilities, he challenged us to really dive into the music... and learn more about what it was asking us to do... he was also just so supportive of us, like in our daily lives, and always offered himself as a branch of support. [He] was really pleasant to work with and it was kind of like a breath of fresh air because college life can be a little difficult sometimes."

Belloise continued, saying that, "Barros is very committed to making people feel included and special in a variety of ways beyond including different kinds of music. He does warmups where we sing that we love ourselves and that we are awesome. Literally, that is what we say. He's a very nice guy who wants us to take care of ourselves while we work hard to make music. His whole theme, after all, is everything will be okay." It is clear to see that—even though he has only been teaching these students for a semester—Barros' focus on positivity and support has made him a stand-out professor that has already made a great impact on these students.

"I got really emotional during one of the songs, which was 'Let The Life of Love Speak For Me,'" said Spyro Coffin '25, another member of the choir. "It's a song that I've been relating to more and more over these past couple of weeks... I think the choir concert went pretty well, and I really enjoyed working with Dr. Barros and Vinny [Vincent Trovato, staff accompanist] and everyone did really well, and I'm really proud of everyone."

Reckoning with "The Mikado"

By Johnny Veglia
Asst. Arts and Culture Editor



Reckoning with *The Mikado*

Asian American critique on (and behind) the stage

Friday, October 29 at 3 – 4 p.m. EST via Zoom

A panel discussion with:

Josephine Lee
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

James McMaster
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The work of theater is powerful and influential for people across the globe, but sometimes this power can have negative consequences when used to portray harmful stereotypes and racism. Muhlenberg College is no different with the various productions done by the theatre and dance department, including the Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre.

During the summer of 2010, Muhlenberg College hosted a production of "The Mikado," an opera by Arthur Sullivan and William Gilbert from 1885. Alumni of the College, working with current students from the Asian Student Association (ASA), brought to the College's attention the racism of the show and offensive actions from behind the scenes, bringing the production to light once again in 2021. The Muhlenberg Weekly posted an article following President Harring's comments regarding the piece and the theatre department's removal of the pictures and other elements related to the production from the website. This past Friday, Oct. 29, Ethan Philbrick, visiting assistant professor of theater, hosted a panel discussion with two scholars of Asian American studies who are connected to the world of performance.

Josephine Lee, Ph.D., a University of Minnesota professor of English and Asian American studies, is a scholar of this piece and the harm it has done across the globe, stating her findings in a book titled, "The Japan of Pure Invention: Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Mikado.'" Lee is also the chief editor of the "Oxford Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature and Culture." The other panelist was James McMaster '12, Ph.D., an assistant-professor of gender and women's studies and Asian American studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. McMaster is also an influential writer with published works in development for American Quarterly, Howlround, the Journal of Asian American Studies and more respected publications and journals relating to his areas of study.

The event hosted faculty, staff, students and members outside of the Muhlenberg College community as well. Philbrick welcomed participants of the Zoom to the shared space and focused on the goal of this discussion to face this production head on and to approach the damage and harm done by Muhlenberg. Philbrick mentioned, "To critique something is to believe in the possibility to grow." The event did not serve as a bashing of Muhlenberg College, but rather a focus on a hurtful moment to make sure it does not happen again. "It's my hope this panel can be a small first step in an ongoing process for both Muhlenberg and the theatre and dance department, in particular, [holding itself] accountable for its past harms and begin imagining ways forward together," added Philbrick.

Lee began the presentation with a PowerPoint presentation on the history of "The Mikado" and how this work has evolved and continues to evolve in the modern day. Lee is interested in "The Mikado" for a multitude of reasons and analyzed the harmful stereotypes associated with the piece. Lee first began her research and development of her novel after Phil Yu's work and insightful contributions as a critique for Asian Americans with the title "Angry Asian Man." Lee mentioned, "One of his comments in 2004 was about a production of 'The Mikado' being staged by the New York Gilbert and Sullivan players. If you know anything about that particular organization, you'll know that they are very traditional in their staging." Lee continued to discuss the work of this production and how it perpetuated negative stereotypes, partially through inclusion of "yellowface." "Yellowface" is the practice of wearing makeup to imitate the appearance of an East Asian person. "Yellowface" has been a "tradition that has long been there on the American and European stage. It's still going on," continued Lee. The other area of focus for Lee following this production was the lack of attention by Americans and how it was able to be performed without question.

The piece has evolved over the years, however, and Lee actually assisted as a dramaturg for a local theatrical production of the opera. Lee mentioned, "After the book was written, I was actually asked to serve as a dramaturg for a production by our local Asian American theater company and Skylark Opera. When I was asked to do this by my friend Rick Shiomi, who directed, I was sort of floored because I wasn't really ready to go back to the opera." The piece transformed the world of the opera to England and removed any and all references to Japan. "He used it as an opportunity to cast five of the leading roles and many of the extras as Asian American singers and actors and I thought that that move was really interesting too," continued Lee.

The work of "The Mikado" here at Muhlenberg was highlighted by McMaster who was a member of the ensemble for the College's production in 2010. McMaster was open and honest with his experiences at Muhlenberg and how it affected him as an artist. "I want to extend my gratitude to and my solidarity to the Asian Student Association and everyone else who has made it their responsibility to demand institutional accountability around anti-Asian racism at Muhlenberg and I want to acknowledge how amazing what Professor Josephine Lee just did was." McMaster also mentioned how the Zoom call "[felt] like a homecoming for me."

The experience was troubling for the "working class student of color" as he utilized the paid experience to earn money for his trip to study abroad in London. He needed financial support and he did not know the full racist content of the piece.

McMaster also dived into the experiences backstage where it was even worse, as his fellow castmates were in full "yellowface" and made derogatory comments, such as "me look so pretty."

The professor continued to dive into his personal experience and the trauma he endured on the Muhlenberg stage as the only Asian American in the cast, including at the hands of his own director. The artist relayed a direct quote from the director, "James McMaster, you are the king of the ensemble."

"The Mikado" was not the only subject of conversation for McMaster as he also included a broader sense of the experiences for performers of color. McMaster included the depth of racial emotional labor and racial care, two elements actors of color experience daily.

Oyinkansola Adebajo '24, an attendant of the panel, declared, "I really related to his comments about racial emotional care and how it is for the benefit of the dominant group, as well as being the sole person of color in a show and that being the only reason you stand out and how you have no choice but to laugh."

McMaster stated, "My experience in 'The Mikado' was exceptional" and did not represent his entire experience at Muhlenberg College.

The work of these panelists helped to showcase the history and complexities of "The Mikado" and also allowed for questions and answers from audience members. One student, Joseph Marcacci '23, proposed a question for the two artists about how they would recommend more representation for performers of color at Muhlenberg since it is a predominantly white institution.

Marcacci mentioned, "The event was crucial for the theatre department to hold, especially because of the lacking representation of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Asian and Pacific Islander (API) in department and on stage."

The event wrapped up after 4 p.m. as the conversation and insights continued to affect audience members and participants of this Zoom. A recording of the panel can be requested via the theater and dance department through Nov. 9 for people to engage with this conversation if they were unable to attend. The damage done by "The Mikado" cannot be erased, but the work of the theatre and dance department, the ASA, and other members of the Muhlenberg community continue to combat anti-Asian hate.

From **Retrospectives** page 6

Miller's "Come Back to Earth." Like "Eggshells," many of the pieces showcased were far from abstract in texture, and consisted largely of clearly-defined plotlines with dynamic, flowing character arcs.

Hall's piece, "Then," was inspired by Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man" and featured instrumental music by Òlafur Arnalds, as dancers Grace Bennett '23, Samantha Miley '24 and Sarah O'Sullivan '22 embodied a powerful sense of longing and metaphysical disconnect. Understudy Madeline de la Parra '23 performed in the piece at Thursday's dress rehearsal. This piece established a striking sense of characterization, as the sequence of movements made it very easy to identify the desires and challenges of each character from the beginning.

Between each of the student performances, the curtain fell, and the lights went up, allowing for a brief cleansing of the palate and even more brief moments of conversation while the backstage team set the stage for the next act. In some cases, the setup was simple, and required very few props and set pieces. For the final piece of the show, however, the team was responsible for setting up a supplementary wooden floor onstage, that way the dancers' tap shoes wouldn't cause damage to the floorboards.

"I went to see the dress rehearsal for 'Retrospectives' to watch my roommate Gianna Carnevalino ['23]," said Amanda Berkson '23. "Overall, the pieces were really dynamic and exciting to watch and the dancers were unbelievably strong and grounded."

My battle with an invisible disability

By Hadas Seltzer
Contributing Writer

The truth is that I look like any other college student. But on the inside, I′m in pain, depressed, frustrated and at a loss. If you never saw me with a mobility aid, you would never know that I′m “different.” But when you see me with my walker or cane, I stand out and I constantly get judgy looks. I have “invisible disabilities,” keyword being “invisible.” You can′t see them from the outside, but when I look in the mirror that′s all I see. I see my pain, nausea and fatigue, but these things are invisible to everyone else. You either say that I′m too sick, or not sick enough, but you don′t see or feel my sick. When I wake up in the morning, I cover the bags under my eyes with concealer, try to decide if I really need my mobility aid and cover up my KT tape in hopes that it will all go unnoticed, because when it′s noticed people say things. Although this is my life, people have decided that they can ask me all sorts of personal questions because I′m “disabled.”

“What’s your diagnosis?” Someone asks while I wait in line for pasta. “Do you really need that?” Someone asks while in the elevator, pointing at my cane. “Urg, I wish I could have that excuse,″ someone says when I tell my professor I’ll be out of class for yet another medical procedure. “She’s the girl with the cane,” people say to identify me. When I faint in class, people assume that I’m just bored—never questioning the girl with her head down for five minutes. Although my disability is invisible, your reaction rarely is.

The truth is: I′m not lazy, I′m constantly trying; wishing that when I wake up tomorrow this will all just be a terrible nightmare. That tomorrow I will wake up like you. But I’ve been wishing that for the past year and a half, so it’s time to give up on that wish. Things that you can do without a thought take all of my energy, like showering, eating or getting dressed. The truth is, I don′t want the attention, and I most certainly don′t want the pain. I don’t want to have allergic reactions to literally everything and nothing. I don’t want to always have to keep a bag on me with an EpiPen, inhaler and emergency meds. I want to be able to eat like a “normal” person. I should be able to focus on my classes but instead I’m juggling doctor appointments, medicine changes and fighting with insurance.

In all of this, I have come to terms with a new normal—my normal. Being happy when I wake up without any hives. Being okay with nausea as long as I keep the food down. I have learned to appreciate the good days, the days when I can go on little adventures with friends. Although they are different than they would have been before I got sick, they still fill me with joy. Most of all, I have grown a huge appreciation for my friends and family. The truth is that I have lost so many friends, people who didn′t want to be with someone like me. But those who stayed showed just how amazing they are.

I am not writing this so that you feel bad for me, because as I’ve already stated I don’t want the attention. I’m writing this to remind you that you never know what someone is going through. Check in on your friends. Give people the benefit of the doubt. You never know, they could be fighting invisible battles just like me.

It′s a ″bones day!″

By Jules Curtis
Contributing Writer

Imagine this: You wake up at 10 a.m., the covers on your bed are tossed to the side as you were tossing and turning in your sleep. You get out of bed begrudgingly and prepare for your day. As you brush your teeth, you decide to go on your phone and scroll through TikTok. On your “For You Page” appears a cute little pug. You watch the video in suspense to see if this pug will stand up straight or flop to the floor, quite like yourself onto a couch after a long day of classes and schoolwork. To your surprise, the pug stands! It seems that today the universe will align so that things will go your way. How can one random dog in New York City determine this? The internet seems to believe this dog can predict the outcome of the day.

The daily routine of most college students here at Muhlenberg was adapted recently based on a TikTok trend that went viral. A little pug and his owner have taken the internet by storm as they’ve created a new daily ritual. Noodle, an old and brittle 13-year-old pug, wakes up every morning with either “bones″ or “no bones,” meaning whether he’ll either wake up and stand (then it is deemed a “bones day”) or wake up and flop back down on his doggie bed (which is a “no bones day”). His owner, Jonathan Graziano, started filming his daily routine with his pet and suddenly millions of people were watching his TikToks every day to know whether it is a “bones” or “no bones” day.

Beginning as an app called Musical.ly, users went on the app to record themselves lip-syncing to different sounds. With a name change and bigger platform, TikTok has become the site where average internet users can become famous overnight. Noodle and his owner have fallen into this cycle of trends that continuously captures the attention of internet users all around the world. The impact that TikTok has immensely increased over the past two years, with the pandemic especially. Because we could not connect in person, we sat down in our living rooms and bedrooms and made dances and relatable videos. Something as simple as whether or not a dog has “bones” gets engraved in the routines of society’s youth. Think of those effects on TikTok or Snapchat that “predict the future of your love life,″ for example. We’ve let social media influence our lives so heavily that it is not influencing anymore but dictating. Those effects are taken to heart and we become so trapped in the spectacle of the images on social media that we forget what we’ve lost amidst this pandemic: human connection. A cute dog on TikTok should not determine the day′s value, but rather our interactions with the people around us.

This does not mean that this “bones day” trend is inherently negative. Sometimes trends can do some good in society. Using his internet fame, Graziano is spreading a positive message of self-care. As a society, we should focus more on the good and awareness brought up by trends. So, go check your phone and see if it’s a “bones day” or not if you haven’t already. I feel like this whole week has been “no bones” for me. However, instead of sulking, I’ll use it to focus more on taking care of myself. Eating, drinking water and getting proper sleep may be the start to making this week slightly better. Maybe you should try some more self-care too.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Paige's Page

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Contributing Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week's edition of Paige's Page! This week has been a wild ride, and I am so excited to get into questions! We do not have a theme for this week which I think is so fun because I get a chance to answer some more really great questions from all of you! Let's get into it!

How do I go about making plans with people?

Hi, bestie! Thank you so much for asking this question. I know making plans to spend time with friends and even acquaintances can be difficult with all of the other things we have going on everyday. The easiest way I think to do this here is to plan meals. Everyone has to eat! If you have consistent meal plans that you don't want to change, make plans to work together in GQ or a C-level room in the library. Last week, I had to clean my room and fold my laundry. I invited friends to sit on my bed while I did my tasks and that was a really fun way to spend time with them while being productive. I also have a lot of friends I can just sit and exist with and I think that is a really great way to just be in the presence of those you want to be around without even necessarily needing to speak. I promise your friends are so excited to see you and spend as much time with you as they can! Send that text, bestie!

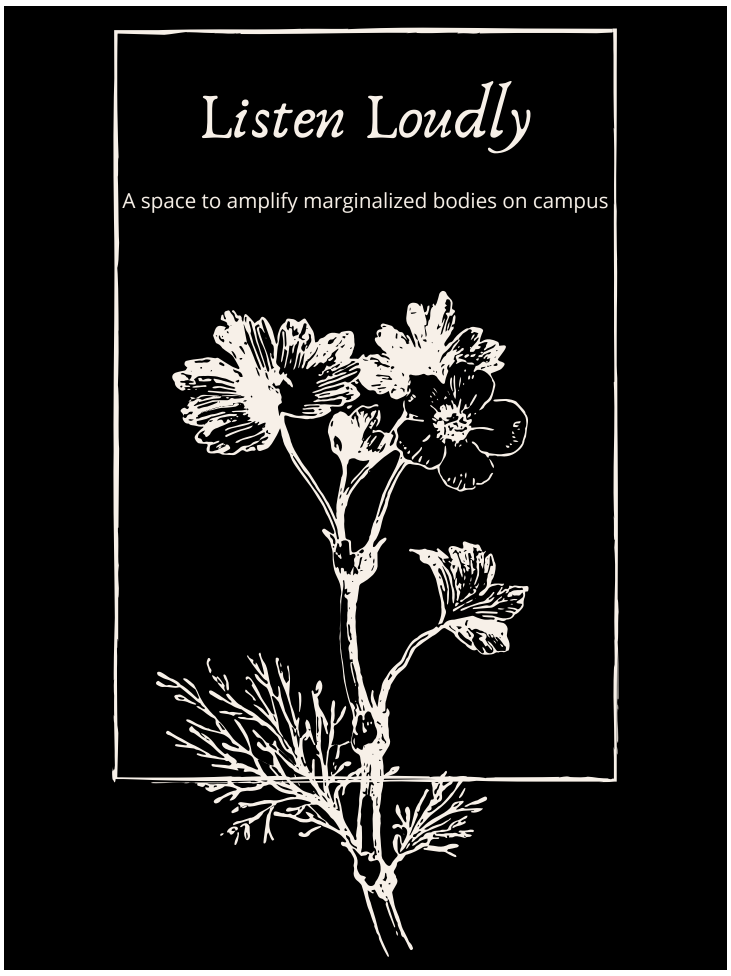
I keep falling for really unhealthy people and I'm sick of it even though I feel very healthy? How can I upgrade and stop falling into this awful cycle?

Hey, bestie! This is a really tough question. I definitely relate to how you are feeling, and I have had to learn to know my worth. You need to know yourself and evaluate potential partners in comparison to yourself. Take things slow and protect your heart until you feel safe and comfortable. Also know that it is okay to wait for the right person to come to you in time.

What are your going out essentials?

Hey, bestie! I love this question so much! In general, the things I need when I leave my room consist of a very short list. However, occasion plays a large part in the way I pack my bag. Of course, I cannot leave without my tote bag—I alternate between a reusable Trader Joe's bag or a bag that aggressively reads, "Recycle or Die." Inside of my bag, I have my keys, a mask, my umbrella (because it was rainy this weekend) and a water bottle. When I wear makeup, I keep my beauty blender, blotting powder and whatever lipstick or lipgloss I'm wearing. Keep it light! No one wants to schlep a heavy bag around campus.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the @BergWeekly Instagram Linktree.


Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

A million ways to end us

By Esther Oko
Contributing Writer

a cluttered shoebox carrying everything and anything
Sits on the edge of a faulty stool that sways with each addition to the box.
A strong wind blows but doesn't quite tip it over, it only pushes it toward the edge
of the stool. Perhaps the next wind will.
A balloon, not quite as large as a thumb, being filled with water, on the verge of
bursting, the water stops pouring in. The balloon, carrying an impending catastrophe,
awaits a sharp agitator.
A clean, white canvas next to cans vibrant red and blue hues. A sleepy toddler
waddles next to the canvas, almost knocking the can over the spotless canvas. Maybe
his next steps will.

A never ending suspense where anything can end us is petrifying and too urgent
for me.

salted caramel hot chocolate and cookie dough ice cream

By AnnaMaria Fernandez
Contributing Writer

there was a moment where i looked at you and all i saw was light.
when the thought of your presence initiated a rebellion within me:
only replicated by cookie dough ice cream in the winter or hot chocolate in the
summer.
and then your hands, which i had no need to learn, roamed my body.
the way fire seethes through a house and eats away at the inside
before devouring the outer edge.
without knowing
or maybe you did,
you had hollowed me out until only a shell was left.
the trust i had immediately handed you had washed away as quickly as it had
been created.
as if the shoreline had been devoured by the ocean during hightide.
i was swallowed whole.
and you pretended it didn't happen.
although your performance had been oscar-worthy to others— i saw right
through it.
just as you sawed right through me.
So I write this as a fuck you.
that shell has been gutted and remodeled.
against all odds and against your will she has fought and survived.
not only have I survived but she has grown.
the way I've remodeled this home it can no longer be hollow. scathed and burned by
you and bruised by others
built back up by me.
i now drink hot chocolate without burning myself and indulge in my cookie dough
ice cream without the chill of your hands.
I've reclaimed my life and you no longer own it.

Football takes care of business at F&M

Mules come out with win ahead of conference deciding game vs Susquehanna

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

With only two more regular season games left, the Mules (7-1) came out with a 27-10 victory at Franklin and Marshall College (3-5) to set up a conference deciding game at Susquehanna University (7-1) next week.

The Mules defense and offense were clicking the whole game, with the team totalling 299 yards of offense and holding Franklin and Marshall (F&M) to 194 yards and two out of 15 third down conversions. This momentum will certainly help going into next week. "F&M was a great test for our team as we face good teams on the road, back-to-back weeks. Also, what helped this week was the readiness of players to step into a role," said Head Coach Nate Milne. "We had some injuries on the defensive line and in our special teams, and at the end of the day, the players who came in met our standard and showed they are ready to compete."

It was an all-around great performance for the team that came in and executed both their offensive and defensive game plans. "The focus this week in practice was to stop the run. They are a run-first team and we thought it was going to rain, which would have made them favor the run even more," said captain Joshua Barnett '22, who had a career high of 15 tackles against F&M.

"From an offensive point of view, we didn't really know how they were going to come out [defensively] and play us so we were just focusing on being as efficient as possible with our bread and butter plays," said Michael Feaster '22, who had eight catches for 112 yards and a touchdown. "F&M is a very good opponent that always plays fast and hard. With Susquehanna coming up next week, a big message was to stay grounded and live in the moment playing hard-nosed football week by week."

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Michael Feaster '22 diving into the end zone.

This game will certainly help the team going into next week, when games have more meaning than at the beginning of the season.

There is currently a three-way tie for first place in the Centennial Conference (CC). Next week's games are the biggest of the season, with the Mules going to Susquehanna and Johns Hopkins (7-1) and playing Dickinson (3-5) at home.

With the Mules victory, as well as a tad bit of help from Johns Hopkins beating Susquehanna 38-17, the CC championship title is still up for grabs for all three teams. However, the Mules can control their own destiny. Win out and get in.

It's safe enough to say that these two games will decide who will become the Centennial Conference champion and get an automatic bid to the Division III playoffs. In order to secure a CC championship, a team needs to finish the regular season with the best conference record; there is no championship game. The team knows how big their next game is in terms of both conference and playoff implications.

"There's really nothing better than games like next Saturday. The morale and energy in the locker room feels similar to when we played that team from Baltimore [Johns Hopkins] a couple weeks ago," said Feaster. "Championship games always bring the best out of everyone and we're all ready to get back to work this week and get after it on Saturday."

Barnett is on the same wavelength as his teammate. "We are all excited every time we play Susquehanna. It's a battle. We are looking forward to another game that pushes us physically. Every game is a playoff game for us because we have to win out, so we are playing this game as if it was our last."

Even with the pressure of next week, Barnett knows his team is capable of withstanding their next challenge to their championship climb. "What stood out to me was our team's next play mentality. We all made mistakes, but we shook them off, lined up and continued to play hard."

Feaster knows that if they want to pull out with a win, the team has got to execute as they have all season. "Next week, we have to win the turnover ratio as a team. Stealing possessions from Susquehanna and capitalizing as an offense is crucial to the team's success," he said. "With a championship game like this, all three phases need to make a big play to turn the momentum and tide of the football game. Playing mistake free football is something we need to do."

Games like these always test a team's character, and this will certainly be a test for the Mules. However, they have stepped up in all their games this season. If they play their kind of football and stick to their game plan, they have shown how great they are.

Even with a great game, the team will always look to improve with the toughest portion of the season coming up. "There are always things to work on. We need to be much better in our run offense. At the end of the game, we had two chances to end the game by running the ball for a few first downs and we came up short on both occasions," said Milne.

Everyone knows what next week's game means, but Milne is making sure they are staying focused and not overthinking what is coming up. "For our team, it's another playoff game. It has been Muhlenberg versus everyone else since we lost early in the season. Our team has had tremendous focus and I expect the same this weekend," he said.

This will be the biggest game of the season for the Mules and will certainly show the great character of this team. With the title up for grabs, they travel over to Selinsgrove, PA to clash with Susquehanna on Nov. 6 at 1 p.m.

Internships in sports offer a broad spectrum of jobs

By Tom Hiller
Asst. Sports Editor

Ryan Smolko is the associate director of student engagement for the Career Center. His main objective on Muhlenberg's campus is to help students with career coaching. He does this by assisting in developing resumes and LinkedIn profiles, helping students structure their job and internship searches and exploring different majors and career paths.

Smolko wants students—particularly those who are interested in jobs within sports—to come to him with an understanding of what exactly they desire to be. "The biggest thing I try to do is help students with the kind of area they're interested in; whether it's journalism, marketing, where they see themselves fitting in. And then, starting to really understand the different layers when you think about sports opportunities."

The scope of jobs within sports is vast, and Smolko believes that students need to direct themselves to more specific areas than just the broad term of sports.

"A lot of times, people see the tip of the iceberg in terms of major professional sports. But then it's looking at the different minor league affiliates, collegiate opportunities within the athletic departments as well as sports marketing firms and other organizations that also have these opportunities, both for internships and jobs. When you think about different marketing firms, equipment manufacturers or even different events—The U.S. Open or the PGA [Professional Golfers' Association] tournament hires interns specifically for those annual events," said Smolko.

With the competitive nature of sports jobs, just having good credentials is not good enough. Finding a niche area of interest for students can be crucial in boosting odds of obtaining internships and job possibilities. "No matter how good your resume or GPA is, you're still facing an uphill battle," said Smolko. "Sports opportunities are very competitive, probably one of the most competitive areas, because who doesn't want an internship with a major sports team?"

Photo by Ayden Levine '23

Katie Conlon '24 and Brianna Kovit '23 heading to use the many tools that the Career Center has to offer.

Another big component of job and internship searching, in general, is utilizing the vast network and connections offered through alumni.

A smart and easy way Smolko suggested for college students to find alumni in their field of choice is to develop a basic habit. "It's really establishing that 30 minutes to an hour a week that you're working on this stuff, and then really looking at the three to five internships you can apply for every week, as well as the five

See **Internships** page 11

From **Plastic** page 4

ferent approach. "Right now, I think the [top number that can be recycled] is three? But I'm not 100 percent sure," he says. "If you were to buy something and you're not sure if it will really be recycled, err on the side of trash, especially at Muhlenberg because it goes into an incinerator. I hate to say those words out loud, but that's the way to do it. We need to try to keep recycling cleaner."

Keeping recycling "clean" means making sure everything in your bin is actually able to be recycled. Dumping in 'maybe' items could contaminate the rest of your perfectly recyclable waste—those items might clog up the machines in the recycling center, or get food waste all over everything and thus turn your recyclables into garbage.

When it comes to keeping your recycling bin truly clean, Scheel recommends ignoring recycling numbers all together. "What truly gets recycled? Bottles. That's pretty much it. Tide bottles, milk jugs, soda bottles... You shouldn't be looking at the number. Just recycle bottles and containers."

All of the conflicting information we are getting from so many different sources—municipalities, social media, even plastic packaging itself—makes it difficult for consumers to figure out how to do the right thing. But the one thing that everyone (except for oil and plastic corporations) seems to agree on: reduce your plastic waste.

"I look for bulk so that I can buy the least amount of containers that I can, and I reuse my containers," says Scheel. "When I do recycle, I'm picky about it, so nothing goes in that is going to be contaminated."

Bolton also advocates for a more mindful approach when making purchases. "We're such a disposable society. We don't ever think to reuse something or come up with different purposes for stuff," says Bolton. "Try to buy more durable goods, try to stay away from disposables. Take personal responsibility."

Procyk agrees with Bolton's claim about consumer responsibility. "Your first go-to is, do you really need this thing? The second is, if it has plastic around it, is there something else you can buy?"

Individuals have power, and our choices make a difference. All of our actions add up, whether we choose to purchase a product that is packaged in paper over one packaged in plastic, or we spend the extra minute washing out empty jars or cans to reduce contamination.

But consumers face more and more issues every day when it comes to trying to reduce their plastic intake. Everything is packaged in plastic. And that plastic trend isn't slowing down. An Ellen McArthur foundation report from 2016 projects that plastics production will almost quadruple by 2050.

We need to take the focus off of consumers and put it back onto the corporations that are creating these issues in the first place. There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution, but focusing the narrative back on the damage of plastics, rather than the benefits of recycling, is a good first step in the fight to combat the growing plastic industry and the problems that it creates. "Perpetuating the narrative of recycling led us (environmentalists) astray... we bought this myth that recycling will solve this problem and we don't have to worry about the amount of plastic being produced," explains Annie Leonard, Executive Director of Greenpeace USA, in "Plastic Wars."

On an individual level, people can make a change by "voting with their dollars," choosing products that are plastic free when possible. This may prove to corporations that going green is an economically profitable choice. But unfortunately, the large-scale changes that we need will probably take more than just a few consumers choosing to make the switch from single use to reusable water bottles or plastic to cardboard deodorant containers. That's where policy change comes in.

Current plastic-related policies across the United States are mostly related to the backend—they focus on plastic waste, not plastic creation. In many locations, citizens and constituents are mandated to recycle, but no one actually wants the recycled product. "The government is forcing supply, but not demand," says Scheel. "It has nowhere to go but landfills."

There are lots of ideas on the table that could help decrease the amount of new plastic being produced while increasing the effectiveness of the recycling system across the United States, including plastic bag bans, plastic taxes and regulations that mandate a certain amount of recycled plastic in every new plastic product. Each of these policies make plastic a valuable commodity, rather than a cheap piece of trash.

"Plastic is both a blessing and a curse—it has made many things easy for us," says Scheel. "People recognize the value in aluminum, they don't recognize the value in plastic. If plastic was seen as more valuable than trash, then recycling might actually be effective."

From **Internships** page 10

people you can reach out to on LinkedIn who are either working there or just doing things that you want to do."

Uniting with 'Berg alumni through platforms such as LinkedIn can propel a student's chances of grabbing their future dream job. Resources such as The Muhlenberg Network give students the chance to have direct contact to over 2,500 volunteering Muhlenberg alumni who are more than happy to help current Mules connect with jobs and internships.

Smolko encourages students to reach out to anyone and everyone, saying, "I want students to get in the habit of how they're cross-referencing. You're increasing your percentage chance—using a sports term—of scoring. And that's what you're always trying to do. The work you're doing is resulting in more interviews and ultimately more offers."

Taking the initiative and beginning the process of building a resume early on during a college career can certainly be proactive for students. They increase the chance of standing out from the crowd, compared to those who wait at the last possible moment.

For college students, devoting small and steady time to building their career network can get the ball rolling. "It's the consistency around this that builds the momentum, whereas many times as college students (and I was the same way) you go in spurts. Then all of a sudden you'll be like, 'Wow, I should really get an internship," and do a lot of stuff randomly and haphazardly and then sit on it."

The concept of only upperclassmen being able to apply and participate in career developing internships is a common misconception. Muhlenberg students have the opportunity to apply for internships as soon as they step on campus.

Sofia Eisenberg '20, made sure to capitalize at every conceivable moment during her time at 'Berg. "I mainly applied my skills from the four internships I held over my four years at Muhlenberg. This brings me to my point that obtaining internships throughout your years at Muhlenberg will enhance your career skills as well as real-world experience."

Her four internships included: marketing intern for MGH Modern Marketing Agency, social media marketing intern for The Daniel Witt Real Estate Group of Keller Williams Legacy, digital and social media intern for The Schiff Home Team of Keller Williams Legacy, marketing associate for Guide Social LLC.

Eisenberg, a former Muhlenberg tennis player, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in media and communication and a minor in innovation & entrepreneurship. Her interest in sports brought her to looking into marketing and retail internships. She eventually landed an internship with the Baltimore Ravens in retail after graduating.

"Over the course of my internship, I learned the value of dedicated teamwork: an inherent core value of the Baltimore Ravens organization. Working in a collaborative manner with everyone was crucial. Having a hands-on-deck approach and utilizing everyone's unique perspective and experiences is something I will carry with me in my future roles as I continue to learn and grow professionally. Additionally, I learned how imperative it is that the retail department is fully equipped in order to ensure that game day preparations are to run smoothly," said Eisenberg.

In the field of sports—or really any field of employment—the overall goal for students is to brand themselves. With the ability to connect to alumni and/or future employers in the click of a button, the most important thing a student's resume can do is stand out.

"It's how you're telling your story in a powerful way," said Smolko. "A resume or cover letter, or maybe a LinkedIn profile, these are kind of your life-like things, right? Those are all I have to go off of. So how are you building detail to those documents to create a powerful narrative and story? Because you have lived your life, the reader has not."

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules soccer honors senior class

The Muhlenberg women's soccer team ends season with senior night

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Department of Communications

Women's Soccer Senior Day.

By Noah Brill
Senior Staff Writer

Although the women's soccer team finished its season with a 2-1 loss at the hands of the Gettysburg College Bullets on Oct. 30, the group celebrated senior night prior to the start of the match. They recognized the accomplishments of their graduating members who have tirelessly dedicated themselves to the team throughout the last four years.

It was a whirlwind year for the soccer team, which was mired by challenges stemming from the fact that they were unable to play last year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consequently, they entered the season with a significant amount of turnover, as over three quarters of the team had never played a minute of soccer at the collegiate level prior to this year's opener. "The program is better off now than it was at the beginning of the season and that was one of our key objectives," said team captain CeCe Peden '22. "I watched players grow in confidence, leadership, ability and determination. Our struggles were rooted in our youthful roster. We lacked experience, but gained it over the course of the year. It is clear to me that the players I will leave behind are hungry and want to win in 2022," Peden said.

The youth and inexperience of the roster gave way to some silver linings this season, particularly for the team's juniors, who have not faced organized competition since their first season of collegiate soccer. Further, they were afforded the opportunity to step into leadership roles and saw significant playing time. "Our rising seniors such as Noemi Di Cori '23, Emily DeAngelo '23 and Sasha Chirinkin '23 saw a lot of time this season, and they will be prime contributors to the team's inevitable success next year," said Lindsay Scott '22. For the team's juniors, the lessons learned throughout this difficult season will help to guide their approach next year.

"Even though we had a tough season, I learned that positivity brings a lot to the team culture and will lead to good things if everyone is dedicated and believes in winning," said Chirinkin. "During my senior year, I will make sure everyone maintains a positive attitude and try to be more of a leader on the field by motivating everyone and making sure each practice is taken seriously."

The culmination of the season marked a bittersweet ending to the seniors' athletic careers.

One characteristic that is apparent in each of the graduating members is that the passion they have for soccer seems to have instilled a relentless work ethic. "I have monstrous aspirations that I cannot wait to inch closer towards, after an undergraduate career during which I focused on getting to where I am today," Peden added. "It won't feel quite like I am finished until I do not have to constantly train this off-season or report to preseason this August."

It seems fitting that there was no shortage of nostalgia during the pregame festivities. "I've devoted so much of my time and energy into this program and it gave me memories to last a lifetime in return," explained Peden. "I'll miss the need to be passionate about the game and the way the competitive atmosphere motivated me to train harder than I ever could have imagined. At the same time, between COVID and a torn ACL taking two seasons from me, I am glad to have the memories from freshman and sophomore year to cherish."

In spite of the fact that the season did not go according to plan, things are looking up for the Mules. "The future of the team looks bright. With Coach Weitie [Weitzman] leading the way, I believe our players are fully prepared to do whatever is necessary to achieve the results they so badly wanted this past season. I foresee a Centennial Conference Championship and an NCAA tournament bid in the future for Muhlenberg College women's soccer," Peden said.

"The hope is that this season provided some of the younger players with the college soccer experience that they needed to make the team successful in 2022," added Scott.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Nov. 4 - Nov. 11

Men's Basketball
MUHLENBERG
VS
MORAVIAN
Friday, Nov. 5 @ 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Wrestling
MUHLENBERG
VS
ALVERNIA INVITATIONAL
Sunday, Nov. 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
Reading, Pa.

Football
MUHLENBERG
VS
LEBANON VALLEY (JV)
Sunday, Nov. 7 @ 2:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Basketball
MUHLENBERG
VS
DREW
Tuesday, Nov. 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
Madison, Nj.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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SPORTS

The wrestling team is ready to return to the mat.

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Students celebrate Diwali

read more on page 5

Photo courtesy of Joe Romano ’23

Members of Top Naach Hannah Morris ’23, Syeda Islam ’23, Shivani Iyer ’23 and Simone Kacal ’23 wave around sparklers to celebrate Diwali.

’Berg’s visitor policy changes

By Alex Caban-Echevarria
Contributing Writer

People who do not attend Muhlenberg College have not been permitted in college-owned properties including residence halls and M.I.L.E. properties so far this semester. This visitor policy went into effect on Aug. 29 and defined non-Muhlenberg-student visitors to include (but not limited to) parents, guardians and siblings. This policy was revised for Family Weekend (Oct. 29-31), when approved visitors were permitted to visit college-owned properties from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

The approved visitors were required to wear the Family Weekend lanyard at all times in order to signify that they had submitted the necessary COVID-19 vaccination paperwork. This weekend provided a pilot adjustment so that the College could assess compliance, behavior and COVID safety operations and begin to permit non-Muhlenberg student visitors the weekend of Nov. 5.

“This weekend itself is a trial run, meaning for now, the visitors are limited to parents and families. However, after this weekend, the COVID operations team will assess how the weekend went from a compliance, behavioral, and COVID safety standpoint. They will also review all COVID data regionally and on campus one more time,” Dean of Students Allison Williams stated in an email to the College at the beginning of Family Weekend. “If all goes well, the College will permit non-Muhlenberg visitors in the halls beginning Friday, November 5th.”

Due to the success of Family Weekend compliance, the College updated the visitor policy as promised. The email update came to students the evening of Thursday, Nov. 4, with time to register guests until Friday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. If students submitted their forms by this time, guests would be permitted for the weekend.

Some students are “happy but concerned,” like Anna Shigo ’24. Natalie Noye ’23 expressed similar skepticism with the policy, “I worry that people are not going to be compliant with the protocol with registering a visitor beforehand.”

Students are required to have the permission of any roommates, suitemates or apartment-mates before finalizing the guest’s visit. In addition, there is a limit of up to two visitors per night for no more than two overnight registrations in a 14 day period. However, the room, suite or apartment may have visitors up to no more than double the occupancy of the residence. There will be no visitors during breaks when the College is closed; including Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break and Easter. These new regulations are welcomed by students who know they can count on certainty. “It makes me so happy that my boyfriend can visit because he is able to abide by all the rules,” commented Grace Nyberg ’23.

Once approved, the host student will receive a confirmation email from the Office of Housing & Residence Life that must be produced if prompted by a college official. The campus visitor must carry a valid ID and have it available to show if a college official requests to see it. Although college-owned properties do not require residents to wear masks, this policy now requires both students and their guests to wear a face covering at all times besides sleeping, eating or using the shower.

The visitor also has to stay with their host student at all times and is not allowed to use their host’s keys or Muhlenberg ID. Any violations of these restrictions are subject to be held responsible in accordance with the student code of conduct or COVID-19 policy. Host students are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their visitors. If a code of conduct violation occurs, the host student may be penalized with financial or disciplinary action, or a letter of no trespass for the visitor if necessary. Further action could be to report involvement in student code of conduct violations to the visitor’s school if applicable.

The new visitor policy has restrictions but leads students to more flexibility in the last few weeks of the semester. Ideally, this new policy will allow for a safe transition into opening campus to visitors. But it isn’t guaranteed. Kayla Rivera ’23 shared her concerns, expressing that, “I feel like people aren’t going to register their visitors when they visit.”

“I’m not as affected by it,” said Morgan Zissman ‘23. “But I’m glad that people can come spend time with their Mules… I also originally wasn’t as comfortable with it if there wasn’t an option to confirm if they’re vaccinated and now that I know that, I’m a lot more comfortable.”

“I don’t know if I personally feel comfortable inviting outside guests unless I know that they’re completely vaccinated,” Lily Knowles ‘23 agreed. “Now that we’re able to do that it’s a nice option, especially with comedy shows and a cappella shows. It would be nice if a friend from home wanted to come now that that’s an option [for] them to be able to stay in a residence hall. It’s nice but I don’t know how much I’ll utilize it.”

While worry about the swift change in strategy is present, the policy that affects residential halls is taking things seriously. These new rules do implement documentation in order to track potential COVID cases on campus by tracking visitors. But it’s up to students to protect themselves and others.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Cydney Wilson
Editor-In-Chief
Katherine Dickey
Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor
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Layout Editor
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Alex Blum
Sports Editor
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Ayden Levine
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Sara Vigneri
Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

11/01/2021
Chew Street: Report of motor vehicle accident, Allentown Police Department also responded, no further incident.
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from burnt food, system silenced and reset.
Albright Street: Report to jump start vehicle. Campus Safety Officer was not able to get vehicle started.
Robertson Hall: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.

11/02/2021
Chew Street: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.

11/03/2021
Walz/Brown (North) Parking Lot: Report of hit and run to vehicle causing minor paint damage, no suspects at this time.
The Village: Report of vehicle illegally parked, vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer, boot later removed.
Trexler Pavilion: Report of alarm from panic button, upon arrival cause was found to be accidental, no further incident.
Hoffman House: Report of damage found to thermostat, no suspects at this time.
Robertson Hall: Report of vehicle illegally parked, vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer.

11/04/2021
Brown Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
New Science Building: Report of odor of gas, Allentown Fire Department responded, UGI responded, cause found to be a specific chemical additive, no further incident.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Leh Street: Report of suspicious activity, individuals spoken to, investigation to continue.
Life Sports Center: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

11/05/2021
Martin Luther Lot: Report of hit and run to vehicle causing damage to bumper and fender, no suspects at this time.

11/06/2021
Hoffman House: Report of smell of gas, upon arrival it was found to be caused by pilot light being turned off on gas stove, no further incident.
Martin Luther Lot: Report of dog in vehicle, owner could not be identified, all appeared ok, no further incident.

11/07/2021
On Campus Location: Report of intoxicated student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officers.
N. 22nd Street: Report of disturbance and vandalism, Allentown Police Department also responded, individuals spoken to, investigation to continue.

Red Door Catering Thanksgiving Orders

Enjoy a delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meal freshly prepared by the Muhlenberg culinary team. The heat-and-enjoy meal serves 8-10 people and includes your choice of apple or pumpkin pie.

Just need baked goods? Order from our delicious a la carte menu of fresh-baked breads, cakes, and pies.

RED DOOR CATERING

Scan Here to Order:

'Berg students vote in local elections

Seegers Union housed a polling location for students and Allentown residents.

By Matthew Klinger
Contributing Writer

Last year, 91 percent of Muhlenberg students were registered to vote in the highly contentious presidential election. New data from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education shares that voting rates at Muhlenberg are one of the highest in the country, according to a new report.

According to data gathered by Beth Halpern, director of the Office of Community Engagement (OCE), "82.6 percent of students voted in last year's election, far above the national average of 66 percent." BergVotes pushed for students to vote this year, as there is often less turnout when there is not a general election occurring.

BergVotes was present in Seegers Union all day. The polling center, which is run by Lehigh County, was open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and was held in Seegers rooms 108-110. "This year, we focused a lot on directly connecting with students in order to increase voting awareness," said Ryan Abrams '23, president of BergVotes. "We had a lot of tabling events with different incentives to draw in students, like a [General's Quarters] gift card raffle. I am so proud of the work the BergVotes and OCE team has done."

While they might not be as widely publicized, local elections are just as important as national ones. Some of the positions up for a vote in Allentown included mayor, city council members and magistrates. "Local elections are extremely important and impact the lives of day-to-day citizens. Positions such as the school board, city council and mayor make decisions that dictate access to resources, curricula taught in the schools, infrastructure fixes on roads and bridges and the distribution of federal funds to address [local] issues," says Halpern. "Making your voice heard through the electoral process is important and a right that has been hard fought for over generations."

Students agreed with that sentiment. Ryan Steremberg '25 decided to vote with an absentee ballot instead of in Allentown because he wanted to make an impact on his hometown. For him, the process was simple: "I just had to get a paper request form for the absentee ballot and then filled it out and mailed it in." Steremberg continued, "It's important to vote because if people stop voting, then there is no democracy. I wanted to have a say as a voter for what the future of my town should look like."

Ethan Yazdanyar '25 voted at Muhlenberg. He had a positive experience voting and even though he "was the last person to vote at Seegers Union, the staff were very helpful." It was his first time voting, something he believes is very important. "We have the right as citizens to effect change at several levels. It is common for people to prioritize presidential elections, however, voting at the local level causes change right in our community," he said.

BERG VOTES
LENBERG COLLEGE

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Ashley Paseltiner '23, Ryan Abrams '23 and Cydney Wilson '23 table for election day.

Some students who registered to vote did not have their forms properly processed by the Lehigh County Government Center, likely the result of a mistake on the forms or the need to sign more documentation that did not arrive in time to meet the voter registration deadline.

To prevent such issues from happening in the future, Cydney Wilson '23, vice president of BergVotes encourages "students to register as early as possible, so they have enough time to rectify mistakes they may have made on their forms."

Despite there being some confusion over voter registration, voting this year was easier for some than it was last year due to the pandemic. "My experience voting this year was a lot less turbulent than last year's November election due to the complications caused by the pandemic," said Kyle Ropski '22. Even though new voting laws aimed at reducing alleged voter fraud have complicated the voting process, as Ropski said, the good news is that "the voting process can still be a relatively easy process."

New clubs emerge on campus

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

Even with the semester well underway, many new student organizations have been formed on campus. These new extracurricular additions include the Planned Parenthood Generation club (PPGen) and Myths N Mules, among others. Although a schoolwide activities fair was held back in early September, there are plenty of new options for students to join and explore.

For those who are activist-inclined and are passionate about reproductive justice and educating the greater campus community, look no further than the Planned Parenthood Generation club. Founded by Cydney Wilson '23 this club aims to serve and educate. Wilson, who currently serves as the club's president, encourages conversations around reproductive rights on a community, state and national level. She has made it a priority to address the recent legislation that is being adopted in many states, such as Texas, where abortion is now outlawed as early as six weeks into the mother's pregnancy. With the convenient location of Planned Parenthood's Allentown Health Center only minutes from campus coupled with these current laws, there is no better time for the club's inception.

As a political science and women's, gender and sexuality studies student, Wilson brings much knowledge, expertise and dedication to the club. As a summer intern at Planned Parenthood Keystone—which serves central and Eastern Pennsylvania—she served on the Racial and Social Justice Committee. Wilson described this as a defining experience because it gave her exposure to "new, important and innovative forms of activism." Similarly, Wilson hopes to take action from a multitude of angles through advocacy work. She has held training for students to learn to volunteer at local medical centers and shared opportunities for students to attend rallies together as a group. The Feminist Collective organized a bus to take students to a rally in Bethlehem on Oct. 2, which members of PPGen joined. Congresswoman Susan Wild spoke at the rally. To help make events like these a success, Wilson works closely with a Planned Parenthood Keystone employee to learn more about the organization and exchange essential educational materials and information in order to prepare for the club's activity.

20
8
GARY GYGAX
TRACY LESCH
EDITION DUNGEON
ALAN LUCIEN

Photo courtesy of @Mitaukano/Pixabay

New club Myths N Mules enjoy playing the classic game Dungeons and Dragons.

"I hope that in Allentown, in Pennsylvania and across the country, this impact will be felt in the wake of the detrimental laws being passed at the moment," Wilson reports. "I am so excited to see the Muhlenberg community come together to make this club a success and to see more activism and support for reproductive rights on Muhlenberg's campus and organize events on campus, too."

Wilson also hopes to work alongside the Feminist Collective and the Student Government Association to push for menstrual products being provided in many of Muhlenberg's bathrooms.

Another club, Myths N Mules, inspired by the popular Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) game, was founded during the pandemic when a community of students came together consistently to play the game. Founded by Trevor Noone '24, the club aims to serve as a network for students, alumni and faculty to start and join games to play and connect together, regardless of experience level. What started out originally as a post on the Class of 2024 Facebook page about creating a group chat for those interested in DnD grew into a much larger Discord server that now features over 130 active members. After establishing a temporary leadership team, drafting club bylaws and gaining prominence on social media, the

See **Clubs** page 4

Dr. Simran Jeet Singh educates 'Berg community on Sikhism

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

On Nov. 7, the Institute for Religious and Cultural Understanding presented this year's Wallenberg Tribute lecture and award. The Wallenberg Tribute lecture and award was conceived to honor Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who saved Budapest Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust. The event's speaker was New York University professor of religion Simran Jeet Singh, Ph.D. In addition to teaching, Singh is an author, activist and devout follower of Sikhism.

According to William Gruen, Ph.D., professor of religion studies at Muhlenberg and organizer of the night's activities, the department "wanted to find a speaker who could speak to the topic of Sikhism in contemporary America." After they chose to grant the Wallenberg Tribute Award to the Lehigh Valley Sikhs for the work they did at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gruen immediately thought of Singh given that "[he] is such a prominent and well regarded speaker on Sikhism... he was the logical choice."

Singh began his talk by discussing the adversity he and his family had to overcome as visibly Sikh individuals living in southern Texas. He specifically focused on his admiration for his father for standing by his faith.

Those that practice Sikhism are confronted with a duality in their discrimination, according to Singh. On one hand, they are highly scrutinized, standing out in a crowd due to how they present themselves through their clothing. Yet, even though Sikhs make up the world's fifth largest religion, they are constantly overlooked in media and culture.

Photo courtesy of samranjeetsingh.org

Singh speaks on the foundational principles of Sikhism.

Singh shared his household's mantra for when the racism they experienced became too powerful a force to ignore. "You can't choose how people treat you, but you can always choose how you respond."

This phrase was extremely evident in Singh's retelling of his parents' and the Sikh community's response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Men in both the Islamic and Sikh faiths are known to wear turbans and grow out their facial hair. "People think we're Muslim." Singh noted that following the 9/11 attacks these similarities incited threats to the Sikh community, and his family specifically, by individuals who confused the two faiths and formed unjust generalizations about the Islamic faith.

However, when Singh would observe and engage in interactions surrounding this subject he noticed that "it was not about strategy. What's the easiest thing to do? It wasn't even about what's the safest thing to do. It was: what is the right thing to do in this moment?"

Singh expressed the sentiments of the Sikhs around him at that time. "We're not looking for the easy way out," Singh stated. "We want to do the right thing here. And the community said, 'You know what? If we say 'it's not us, it's them,' then we're just deflecting the hate to another community. And that's not right.'"

His speech then transitioned into a discussion of the core tenets of Sikhism: oneness, love and service. "Imagine how different our world could be if we all believed we were connected," Singh said in reference to the quality of oneness. Born out of that connection, in Singh's opinion, is love. Making love a constant in your life is key in Sikhism. Singh affirmed that "love is the goal of life, love is what we're looking for." A natural byproduct of love is service, said Singh. Singh illustrated this process by saying that, "you are moved because you love, that's service."

Singh concluded his talk by communicating the primary purpose of his lecture. He hoped to give insight into his often overlooked culture. "To us, this is our tradition. We choose to stand out. We choose to serve. And we do it with a whole lot of love because we believe that doing so will help us feel more connected."

The lecture was also well received by students. Matthew Klinger '25 noted that he "liked how [Singh] focused on love over hate. I think that's really important in today's polarized society."

Gruen expressed the significance of Singh's lecture stating that "it is important that we see the great diversity of cultural and religious groups all around us. Sikhs, though very visible in our community because of their distinctive dress, are very poorly understood by the public. This lecture served the need of educating and informing our campus community and other attendees about this vibrant group."

"From the Ashes" welcomes Rebecca Walker

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

Muhlenberg's "From the Ashes of Relentless Racial Crises: Creating a New United States of America" speaker series welcomed a new guest on Oct. 28. Rebecca Walker is a writer, feminist and activist as well as a consultant for several Fortune 500 companies. She is also one of TIME magazine's "Most Influential Leaders of our Generation" and one of the founders of the Third Wave Fund, which works to build resources for youth-led gender justice activism. "From the Ashes" co-directors Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D, assistant professor of English & Africana studies, and Purvi Parikh, Ph.D, assistant professor of religion studies, led the discussion with Walker which was then followed by a question and answer session with Muhlenberg students and staff.

Kucik mentioned during the introductory discussion that she and Walker were both featured in a conversation this summer hosted by The Holocaust Center for Humanity. "[A]s I listened to her describe the role that storytelling had played in her own life as an author, I was captivated by the thoughtfulness with which she described all of the ways that storytelling had allowed her to think about her identities as Black and Jewish. As she spoke about her intersecting identities, I realized that she would be an excellent speaker for the 'From the Ashes' series, which focuses on interracial solidarity and cross-cultural conversations as methods for dismantling racism."

The discussion mainly centered on Walker's autobiography "Black, White & Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self," published in 2002. In response to a question about why she chose to write the book, Walker stated that she "desperately needed, for myself, a book that was not a tragedy, a book that could innovate on the multiracial narrative, could advance it from this tragic story to a kind of magic story so I could save my own life and create a new way of life that was not destined for misery. I needed to do that for myself but also for my cohort, my friends, my community... I felt that we all needed a new story."

Walker went on to say that these differences and variations in our individual identities can help us be more empathetic and compassionate people overall. "There is a deep need for us to understand how to skillfully use our differences, our different identities and different masks and deeply felt beliefs and traditions. That has to be balanced with this profound sense of openness and deep sense of being. This balance is what allows us to work with other people," Walker stated. "When we come from the place that's transcendent of the performances, you realize that we are all hurting, we are all wanting to be happy, we are all deserving of justice, we are all beautiful, really. If we can't help each other and support each other in being and become the beautiful human beings that we are, we are going to slowly lose our humanity. The big idea is getting in touch with our profound humanity is what allows us to cultivate it... That is how we are going to preserve ourselves as a species."

In Walker's opinion, this intersectionality and empathy extends to activism as well. "Don't tell me you're a feminist if you're not dealing with

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From **Clubs** page 3

club began to take form for the first time in person since the pandemic.

"We are thrilled to be starting our first fully operational year after being forced to be online for so long! We're already had several events this semester including a kick-off and a workshop, and additionally, have started sending out email blasts as well. Recently, just a few weeks ago, we also just launched our club website!" Myths N Mules Publicity Coordinator Emma Walter '24 exclaimed. Interested potential members can visit https://mythsnmules.erw.bergbuilds.domains/ to learn more about their mission and club membership.

For all students who are interested in starting their own club on campus, they must undergo a process involving the Student Government Association (SGA) and SGA advisor, Ellen Lentine. Interested students must present their club to the SGA during a General Assembly Meeting, where the General Assembly later votes on it and decides on the denial or approval of a potential club. During this semester alone, at least six potential clubs have proposed their club ideas and goals, all of which have been approved. New clubs include Doodleberg, Skate club, Historical dress society and Model United Nations club.

"I think this process really helps getting students interacting and engaging with SGA," SGA President Zaire Carter '22 stated. "In terms of funding, historically, SGA has been the bank. We can't just hope that image goes away. We have to be deliberate and intentional with our actions if we want it to change. I think this is one way that will help to dismantle that image. While clubs are here, we also ask them a few questions about what they would need from us in terms of funding, support and resources. We also tend to ask about the longevity of the club, to ensure that the club leadership and membership doesn't dissolve once members graduate. This has been a great way for students to get first-hand engagement with SGA, to bring more students into the process."

For those looking to start the club formation process, they must submit a form for approval, then attend an SGA meeting held on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Room.

"If there's no one left in the living world to remember you, you disappear from this world. But you can change that!"

-Hector, 'Coco'.

'Berg comes together to celebrate Diwali

Photo courtesy of Joe Romano '23

Members of Top Naach performed to celebrate Diwali.

By Cydney Wilson
Editor-in-chief

"Diwali is the festival of lights and has both religious and cultural significance," said Anisha Gupta '22. "It marks the triumphs of good over evil and light over darkness."

Gupta introduced the Diwali celebration, held on Nov. 5. She is the president of Top Naach, Muhlenberg's first South Asian/Bollywood dance group. The group was founded in 2015, and "is an organization that celebrates cultures across South Asia."

Sruti Sailam '23, public relations chair and choreographer for Top Naach further elaborated on Diwali's meeting saying, "This is a time to let go of old grudges, angers and judgements, making room for compassion, forgiveness and love."

At the event, every seat in the Event Space of Seegers Union filled with excited audience members, and rows of standing onlookers squeezed into the back of the room. Attendees enjoyed samosas, gobi, gulab jamun, paneer and mango lassi. They could also participate in diya painting and henna.

A series of performances included the Perkulators dance team as an opening act, followed by InAcchord a cappella, the MINT hip hop team and the Copacetic Rhythms tap group. The final performance was from Top Naach.

Raivat Shah '23, Top Naach vice president and choreographer, shared that, "Our planning for Diwali required balancing various administrative elements simultaneously. Aside from developing our own dance choreography and conducting weekly practices, we had to work alongside Sodexo to provide catering, work with [media services] for performance-day technicalities and coordinate with other student organizations on campus to assess whether they'd be willing to perform during our event."

> **"This is a time to let go of old grudges, angers and judgements..."**

Shivani Iyer '23, Top Naach treasurer added, "Planning the event would not have been possible without the endless support and teamwork and effort from my fellow exec members and the committee leaders."

Top Naach performed four dances to the songs: Shubharambh, Jalebi Baby, Drama Queen/Confidence and Proper Patola/Taki Taki. These songs all had different tones and meanings, with Shubharambh implying "a happy, blessed and suspicious beginning," and being the first song Top Naach performed. Drama Queen/Confidence "symbolizes the importance of accepting oneself and projecting confidence in everything we do," according to the program.

Shah and Iyer both shared the importance of celebrating Diwali here at 'Berg. "We believe celebrating Diwali at Muhlenberg goes a long way in extending cross-cultural conversations to populations that may not have previously been exposed to the implications of Diwali and what it means to those who celebrate it," said Shah.

Iyer added, "It is so meaningful to be able to celebrate Diwali here on campus because it personally allows me to feel connected to a piece of home and my family who taught me the traditions and meaning behind Diwali. I think it is also so important to have this celebration so that more people can expand their own knowledge, awareness and appreciation towards different cultures. It's really special to be able to showcase South Asian culture (even in a small way) with the rest of the Muhlenberg community."

Top Naach is looking forward to the spring for their next event, the festival of Holi. Iyer shares that, "Holi is the festival of color, commonly practiced across South Asian countries. I am very excited to build on the momentum of our Diwali celebration and put on an even greater event in the spring."

Gupta shared, "It is so special to have had so many members of the Muhlenberg community come out and celebrate Diwali with Top Naach. We are so thankful to the dance and a capella groups who performed, Sodexo who provided amazing Indian appetizers, the Office of Multicultural Life and [Student Organizations, Leadership and Engagement (S.O.L.E.)] who facilitated the logistics of the event. After almost two years apart, the event was an amazing way to get the community together again to celebrate with the important people in our lives. Top Naach is immensely grateful to the people who came with such open hearts to celebrate the holiday with us."

Poetunity Open Mic graces the Red Door Cafe

By Johnny Veglia
Asst. Arts and Culture Editor

The art of poetry allows for connection, vulnerability, honesty and a sense of exploration for writers and creators alike.

Richeta Cubano ‘24 hosted the Office of Multicultural Life (OML) Poetunity Open Mic at the Red Door Cafe to showcase the work of students in a continuing series with OML. The Muhlenberg Weekly covered the first celebration of the Poetunity series with Hillel in 2020. The event, held on Friday, Nov. 5, incorporated a set list of artists along with ‘pop-ins’ from various people, and students even incorporated instruments in their poems and lyrics. The work was more than just a chance to share poems, as these short pieces of art and writing allowed for an openness and honesty to be shared and experienced for this one night at Muhlenberg College.

Tommy Kelly ‘24 declared, “Poetunity was absolutely magical. It was so intimate and so raw, getting to watch people bare their souls to me when I hardly even know some of their names. The amount of talent in that room was absolutely astounding.”

Cubano hosted the experience and also shared poems throughout the night, starting the event off with a poem entitled, “Why I Write.” The fitting poem set the tone for everyone involved and the importance of the power of writing. Cubano said, “Whenever I do start open mic, I always read my own [piece] and my own usually sets the tone and the atmosphere for how I want everything else to flow. In the beginning, I explain how writing in general can come with weight. It can come awake, can become a release. It can be very vague. It could be very specific, but the whole part of it is for you to just release, no matter what you're sharing, whether that's suicide, depression or abuse. The point is for you to take this space as an opportunity for others to hear your story, but also to make others know that you're not the only person, or that they're not the only person, going through it.”

Following Cubano’s introduction, various performers filled the Red Door Cafe with important reflections on identity and experiences in addition to more comical pieces. No matter what pieces were shared, the audience was responsive and supportive with snapping gestures and moments of audible responses. “We are not clapping, okay, I don’t know what that is, I don’t know where y’all learned that from… When it comes to poetry, when it comes to listening to spoken word, you snap,” stated Cubano.

The diligence and energy of Cubano made sure the event ran smoothly and that people felt safe to perform. Cubano also shared three additional pieces: “Women” and “A boy is a Gun” which led in for “911.”

Keanna Pena ‘25, a poet who shared a piece she wrote, mentioned the creative and supportive characteristics of Cubano. “I think that she [Cubano] was a wonderful hostess! She made sure everyone stuck to the rules of a poetry slam and ensured that the audience praised each performer after they spoke their piece. I also loved the poems that she read to the audience! She’s a really talented writer and is clearly passionate about writing.”

AJ Henley ‘24 mentioned, “Being vulnerable is so valuable to me because it makes us feel less alone as a community which is extremely important. It’s the first step in destigmatizing 'heavy' topics. The event was amazing. There was such a great turnout and it was a nice way for all of us to connect to each other in ways we might not have in daily life.”

Sidney Caruth ‘23 performed a poem as well during the event with “words from self-reflective parts,” or a more specific title with “letters to a younger me.”

“I really enjoyed the experience, it definitely was something that I have not really done before. I've never really spoken out loud my reflective thoughts in such a public setting. But it was really intimate and it was really good to see people in the audience that I knew, having comforting faces, definitely made it easy. I was a bit nervous… I’ve never done this before.” continued Caruth.

The evening was more than just moving poetry as it also involved a campus wide power outage during the event. The lights in the Red Door Cafe went out as Henley performed their pieces, including “Swipe Left,” “A Girl I Used to Know,” and an untitled poem. Henley declared, “The power going out after my last line was honestly insane. When everything went dark, I thought God was smiting me down or something! In the end, while the power going off was disruptive, I feel like it made my piece more powerful. It certainly made it end with a bang.”

The open mic format of the experience also allowed for pop-ins from various students in the audience and members from outside the Muhlenberg community. Kelly performed as a pop-in for the experience with a cover of “My Mind” by YEBBA, an emotional and heartfelt song. Kelly stated, “It was kind of terrifying. I hadn’t done any performances like that in years, but it was exhilarating to be up there performing. I missed that feeling a lot.”

Mustafa Hall ‘23 shared a piece entitled “My Blood is electricity,” which is published in this same issue. The poem reflected on his identity and spirit. Hall stated, “Overall, not only did I feel comfortable enough to share but also just so immensely supported in this space. It was honestly such a spiritual and powerful moment for me as a writer and I can’t thank Richeta enough for making something so impactful come to life.”

The work of the event allowed for artists to be celebrated, comforted and safe to share their stories and life experiences. Cubano hosted a wonderful experience and plans to host more with the upcoming spring semester. Pena finalized, “I have never done something like this before, and I’m really glad I got to. I’m really grateful for the opportunity Richeta gave me. It helped me gain some confidence and peace of mind.”

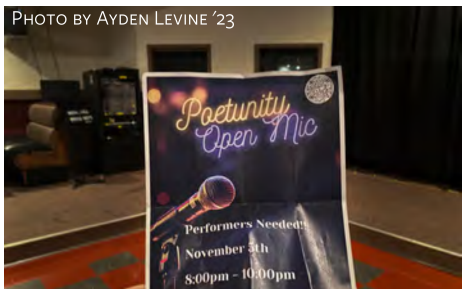
Photo by Ayden Levine ‘23

Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival premieres

By Ian Clark
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Theatre Association is dedicated to bringing a diverse and inclusive theatre and arts community to Muhlenberg whether through the Sedehi Diversity Project or more recently, through the Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival (MVTAF). The MVTAF compiles work from students whose voices and communities are marginalized and often silenced. This festival gives them the chance to bring their art front and center to the public.

This year’s festival was coordinated by Shachar Kessler ‘22, and its content was more varied than last year, featuring a more condensed production held in person with more mediums of art than just theatre and dance. This year a physical work, “Why Can't You Just Wear a Silly Hat: An Exploration of Gender Creativity,” a group piece coordinated by Sydo Baron ‘22, was on display. Featured pieces were sculptures, murals and photos all highlighting gender, race and sexuality in different ways. One of the pieces in “Why Can’t You Just Wear a Silly Hat” was a table, unique for its interactivity as one of the pieces. The table featured kinetic sand, slime, stress ball balloons and more, all of which the viewer was instructed to play with and encouraged to leave the space unlike the way it was found. Along with that piece were sculptures, murals and photos all made highlighting gender, race and sexuality. The photos were a part of a separate piece by Avital Zemel ‘22 documenting finding space in relation to finding one’s identity and place of belonging.

Similar to the physical works, the pieces on stage also expanded beyond theatre and dance. The first performance was “Loving Her,” a piece by Alison Rutyna ‘23, which she performed with Kayla Bassoff ‘25, with piano accompaniment and backup vocals by Sam Jones ‘25. The song used poetry and music to create a love song made by women who love women, fighting against the stereotype of love songs that cater exclusively to straight relationships. The piece utilizes poetry from Sappho and Audre Lorde, as well as songs by Phoebe Bridgers and Dodie, all LGBTQ+ women whose openness and expression have been prominent in their work.

Following up “Loving Her” was a piece by Amira Jackson ‘24 entitled “A song for me & you.” The piece was a short film featuring dances choreographed to poetry and read by the performers. These dance sequences all explore the identities and feelings around them that the performers experience. Following the performances, Jackson also included footage and images of LGBTQ+ culture, clips from the famous documentary “Paris is Burning,” images of the Stonewall Riots and Marsha P. Johnson (to name a few) all dubbed over by poetry.

The last performance of the night was a short speech from Jake Hoffman ‘__ followed by a solo performance of “Defying Gravity” from “Wicked.” Hoffman talked about his experience in the theatre world not being cast in roles that he feels suit him. Whether in the character’s sexuality or gender, Hoffman felt he gets cast in roles that depcit who he is, rather than who he wants to be

“The process was really special for me to be a part of. This was the first time I had ever been in an all-trans creative space and it felt so wonderful to be surrounded by such silly, fun and creative humans. I’m so proud of what we made, but cherish even more all the moments of queer kinship that brought us there,” stated Baron, referencing their piece.

“Being the coordinator of MVTAF was an absolute honor and pleasure,” said Kessler. “Being able to create a space for people to explore and create pieces about their identity was more fun than I could have ever expected. It was amazing to be back in person to celebrate all marginalized voices on campus.”

Sensory table, created by Ky Dates ‘22.

The ISA presents their own Day of the Dead celebration

By Keanna Pena
Contributing Writer

Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is a Latin American holiday that celebrates life and death. Instead of mourning loved ones who have passed, this two-day holiday allows individuals to celebrate and honor them. Starting on Nov. 1 and ending on Nov. 2, the Day of the Dead is full of lively festivities as a way of rousing the dead. On Nov. 2, the International Students Association (ISA) hosted their own Day of the Dead celebration.

A table was set up in the Light Lounge of Seegers Union where community members could paint their own Calaveras Catrinas, or elegant skulls, which is the Day of the Dead's most prominent symbol. These skulls are decorated to be bright and colorful, as a way of celebrating the lives of loved ones who have passed. The ISA also had a table full of pan de muerto, a kind of sweet bread, and hot chocolate, which is usually consumed during this holiday. Throughout the event, people of different cultures within the Muhlenberg community came to celebrate the Day of the Dead, either by eating the sweet bread, painting their own Catrina or taking a flyer the ISA provided with information about the holiday.

Ruhani Singh '22, the president of the ISA, wanted to have this event because she believes that it is "important for people to know about festivals and holidays that happen around the world," and wanted to help these people "feel a sense of home." As an international student herself, she knows how important it is to have one's culture be represented and recognized. She believes that this is a "very beautiful holiday, and I wanted to bring it out to the Muhlenberg community."

A common tradition was the creation of ofrendas (offerings/altars) by families to help guide and reunite their family members back to the realm of the living for the holiday. These altars are usually decorated with photographs of the departed, bright yellow marigold flowers and the favorite foods and drinks of the departed. One ofrenda was located in Egner Memorial Chapel.

For this event, Singh collaborated with Alejandra Cepeda Bàtiz '23 who explained, "The Day of the Dead has always been important to me, as it's one of the few holidays that really connect me to my culture." When asked about why she decided to have this event on campus, Cepeda Bàtiz explained that when she first came to Muhlenberg, "It felt weird to have such a personal and intimate family event on the altar of Egner Chapel, and I felt a little secluded to that, so I decided to hold an event that was more casual, one that could make people learn about it and experience the family aspect of the holiday." In this aspect, Cepeda Bàtiz and the ISA succeeded, as there was a wonderful, homey atmosphere in the Light Lounge that night—from the Mexican songs playing in the background to the sweet aroma of pan de muerto wafting through the air.

Photo by Keanna Pena' 25

Students celebrate Día de los Muertos in Seegers, hosted by the International Students Association.

This helped in creating a welcoming environment where students of all cultures could take a seat at the table and paint their own Catrinas. With a wide arrangement of colors to choose from, students got creative with their skulls while enjoying some pan de muerto. The ISA wanted students to have something to take home with them from the event, as a way of celebrating the Day of the Dead.

Besides a bright and colorful skull, the main objective that the ISA and Cepeda Bàtiz want the Muhlenberg community to take from this event is to never take advantage of your loved ones, to acknowledge and remember them and that our loved ones are never dead until we have forgotten them.

When Cepeda Bàtiz would celebrate this holiday back home, her family would eat pan de muerto and hot chocolate as the offering, and spend the night talking about their ancestors and what connects them to their roots. When asked to describe this holiday in one word, the first word that came to mind was "happy." She explained that while death is very sad, the purpose of this holiday is to remember our loved ones and honor them, and so she always felt excited around this time of the year. "Once I taste the bread, I know it's the Day of the Dead, and getting to share that with people is really special to me," Cepeda Bàtiz says.

Jay's Local

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In Celebration of President Harring's Inauguration as Muhlenberg's 13th President!

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at Jay's Local
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Fluffy bite size buttermilk pancake balls, dusted with powdered sugar and maple syrup.

From **Walker** page 4

racism," Walker stated plainly. "Don't tell me you're a feminist if you're not dealing with homophobia, with the class divide, with white supremacy. Also, if you are a man who is dealing with toxic masculinity, if you are a man who is standing with this work: you can call yourself a feminist."

Despite the high stakes of discussions around identity, intersectionality and justice Walker encourages us to still "find a way of being that is more buoyant and joyful and appreciative of our unique ability to shine even in the darkest moments. Let's lean into the beauty no matter what."

The event was well-received by those in attendance – the question and answer session ran over time and led to enthusiastic discussion. "I wholeheartedly thought the event and its message was worthwhile," said Grace Alvarado '23. "I loved hearing Rebecca [Walker] talk about how her identities, activism and writing all interconnect and feed into each other. It was an amazing discussion, and I just loved listening to her answers about all different topics that were brought up, especially ones that connected to the modern age in the Q&A section."

Kucik expressed similar sentiments. "We have received many, many positive messages of support from students, faculty, staff, administrators and other guests, all of whom have told us that the series has created inclusive spaces of solidarity and community," she stated following the event. "Many people have told us that they have learned a lot from the events; students have told us they have felt seen by many of the topics; and people have shared that they are deeply excited to continue attending the events. We received a lot of positive feedback about this event specifically, and many people told us that they were impressed with the depth and breadth of Rebecca [Walker]'s responses. Many of my students said that they had never been to an event that discussed the intersections of Black and Jewish identities, and they wanted to get her memoir to learn even more about those intersections."

As far as the "From the Ashes" series as a whole, Parikh stated it has been progressing wonderfully, with many positive reactions from the Muhlenberg community. According to her, "The series has been a particularly meaningful and empowering experience for students from marginalized backgrounds and a call for our entire community to work across our different and beautiful identities to show up for one another and create positive change in the world."

Muhlenberg, how sustainable are you, really?

By Harli Strauss-Cohn
Contributing Writer

Did you know Muhlenberg has solar panels in Texas? To find this out, some serious digging has to be done on the College's website. So, why Texas? Muhlenberg is in Pennsylvania after all. The model followed for this sustainability initiative is called carbon offsetting and is often how net zero-emission goals are reached. The issue with offsets is that the original emissions still take place and contribute to the climate crisis at large. Now, I don't want to completely tear apart Muhlenberg's sustainability initiatives because they are quite substantial in comparison to other schools. However, there is more to be desired from a school with proclaimed sustainability goals and a large endowment.

Carbon offsets are not a sufficient solution to combating climate change. The concept creates an inadequate mindset for creating meaningful and effective change. Carbon offsetting places nearly all the control, impetus for action and responsibility on consumers, even though large corporations are mostly at fault for global emissions. This concept makes it hard for people to recognize and fight against the huge amounts of emissions created by large corporations.

The status of Muhlenberg's divestment from fossil fuel corporations and other corrupting organizations is unclear. Since Muhlenberg does have a substantial endowment, it would be great to be able to easily learn more about what the school is invested in and if those companies are in line with the shiny sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion goals of the school. It can be hard to know which of the school′s words are performative and which are supported with broad action.

I do want to say that what Muhlenberg is doing related to sustainability does have commendable aspects, especially when thinking about what other colleges and institutions are—or are not—doing. A big part of why I decided to attend Muhlenberg in the first place is because of these sustainability initiatives and my ability to have a sustainability studies major. However, I'd be remiss to view everything the school is doing without any critique and curiosity. Goals of carbon neutrality are not enough when the world is witnessing the devastating and worsening impacts of climate change.

Net zero emission or carbon neutral targets create a false sense of hope and give a perception that companies/businesses/etc are sufficiently dealing with their greenhouse gas emissions. When it is a carbon neutral target being worked towards (which is what Muhlenberg proudly has), significant greenhouse gases are still being emitted into the air.

Muhlenberg's solar energy purchase is to "mitigate 100 percent of… emissions associated with energy usage" which is substantial and I don't want to downplay this. At the same time, emissions caused by energy use does not cover all emissions caused by Muhlenberg operating and the students living here. Think about all the energy consumed by the lights, some of which are kept on 24/7, in the academic buildings, Seegers Union, residence halls, etc. The fuels that power Muhlenberg's maintenance carts, buses, and assorted other machinery. The emission of carbon and other pollutants into the atmosphere created by Muhlenberg's operation and the lifestyles of the students, professors and staff continues to contribute to the harm of the environment.

The solar panels are in Texas, which as explained in Muhlenberg's announcement article, was a decision that allows the project to avoid the need to clear trees, displace farms, and in the end, this decision reduces more emissions. I appreciate this logic as it would be very ironic to cut trees down in the name of sustainability. Still, Texas is very far away and my understanding is that not very many people know about the offsets purchased (partially because of the distance).

So what else is being done on the actual Muhlenberg campus to further reduce environmental impacts? Muhlenberg has won multiple campus sustainability awards and the new Parkway Boulevard Building is "one of the first 20 projects in the world to pursue CORE green certification." On the one hand, these are impressive feats but on the other hand, student/faculty/staff awareness of what sustainability can look like and how to influence meaningful change is lacking. EnACT, which was once an environmental action group on campus, died off (but look out for it to make a comeback in the spring semester!) and the campus Sunrise Movement hub also fizzled out. The continuation of sustainability initiatives and education is a struggle as students rotate out, the pandemic-influenced involvement, and the position of Campus Sustainability Officer is currently unfilled. To be fair, sustainability is not the only issue facing the College and there needs to be enough money and attention on a variety of issues. But, sustainability must be put at the forefront as it is made to be a crosscutting method of acting that should connect economics, the environment and social justice.

See **Sustainable** page 9

Considering the ethics of family vloggers

By Brianna Kovit
Copy Editor

"Act like you're crying!" says Jordan Cheyenne to her nine-year-old son, Christian, in a now-deleted Youtube video. In the vlog, "We are heartbroken," Cheyenne reveals to 500,000 subscribers that her puppy has parvovirus, a potentially terminal disease. "I am crying," the little boy insists.

Cheyenne then poses Christian for the video's thumbnail: "Put your hand on your face; but let them see your mouth; look at me; look at the camera." She knows that an exceptionally overwrought thumbnail will lead to more clicks, and more clicks will lead to more money. Through tears, Christian follows instructions. After holding the gut-wrenching pose for an optimal three seconds, Cheyenne reaches to stop the recording and says to her son, "It's OK, it's OK. It's over."

After being virally accused of exploiting her son's emotional distress for views and money, Cheyenne deleted her Youtube channel and all other social media.

Cheyenne's endeavor falls into a potentially creepy subcategory of Youtube content known as "family vlogging." Family vlogs are typically filmed and produced by parents and closely follow the experiences of their young children: from birth to potty training, birthday parties to first days of school, doctor appointments to starting puberty. Family vloggers have built multi-million-dollar empires around the relatable, the cute and the intensely intimate.

Photo courtesy of depositphotos

The LaBrant family (Youtube name, "The LaBrant Fam") boasts over 13 million Youtube subscribers and averages over four million views each week. Produced by parents Cole and Savannah LaBrant, the channel features personal aspects of their lives and the lives of their three children: Everleigh, age seven, Posie, two; and Zealand, one. (By the way, these kids have 4.9 million, 1.6 million and 700,000 Instagram followers, respectively). From Youtube AdSense revenue alone, the family comfortably pulls in close to $1 million per year. Coupled with their various brand sponsorships, the LaBrants are certainly doing okay.

But, is the LaBrants' growing wealth and fame imposing an unintended cost to the well-being of their children? In 2019, the parents posted a video unabashedly tricking Everleigh into thinking they were giving her dog up for adoption. In the video, Everleigh becomes distressed, clinging to her canine friend. When her parents reveal that it was simply a joke and all is well, she bursts into tears of relief. The camera never misses a moment of (monetizable) content.

Many viewers were outraged that the LaBrants would stage their child's agonizing distress for views and money. Despite publicly apologizing, the LaBrants continue to capitalize on staged emotional content. In another video, they replace Everleigh's shampoo with purple dye. The

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OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

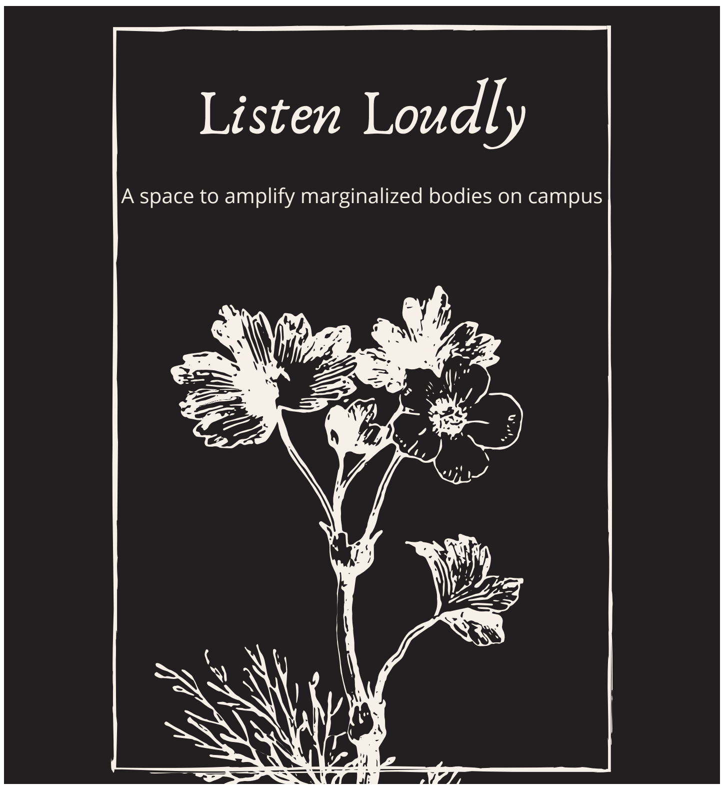

Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

Photo of Des Suarez

From **Sustainable** page 8

Sustainability means a lot more than installing LED light bulbs or using in-trend 'sustainable' products. Depending on students' field of study, the interconnected nature of the world economy, injustices, climate change, politics, etc. may or may not be conceptualized. Especially at a liberal arts college, but arguably for any institution striving to educate students and prepare them for the future, global interconnection and sustainability ought to be taught to every single student. Perhaps this looks like a required learning experience so everyone has the same base level understanding.

So what else could we, as a school, do? Compost could be a path to look down as it would hugely reduce the food waste going to landfills and make nutrient-rich soil instead. Bringing reusable cups to Java Joe's stopped being allowed with the onset of the pandemic, which is understandable. Perhaps this is something to return to as the pandemic has become less of a threat. Reusable cups and bags cannot be the end all be all of the sustainability efforts because we are far past that being a viable solution. Individual action, while important, will not solve the climate crisis.

There are many ideas surrounding what in turn will solve the crisis. What needs to happen is action. Transition to renewable resources, elect representatives that will subsidize the cost. Build infrastructure that supports efficient and affordable public transportation. Work to dismantle the oppressive powers of capitalism so justice can be restored to communities historically and currently marginalized. These are just some of the many avenues sustainability can go. The solution to climate change needs to be widespread and present in how every company, manufacturer, and person functions and carbon neutral goals make it seem like the solution to climate change can be bought away in some far-off field. Muhlenberg has many more opportunities to reduce its carbon footprint on the campus itself. The sustainability studies major is growing in popularity and there are many students passionate or interested in climate justice. The conversation around sustainability must continue around campus and in the school's administration.

my family′s tree

By Des Suarez
Contributing Writer

anger passes down through my family like an ancient amulet
and i am next in line

my mother was the first to show me
this rage,
and then the rest began to fall in line
our heads like the ends of dynamite, needing only a spark to detonate

as my mother was the first to show me
she was the first to undo
her warm hands, even tone, and fierce loyalty made me want to be just like her
And this was already happening,
the anger my mother had felt at 18 became the anger i felt when i was 18

It was uncontrollable
A dumbbell sitting in my intestine
the only word my brain could compute was "hit"
Crash,
Bang,
Wiz
all over my bedroom,
i would break anything i could
red knuckles and tearful eyes were the only remnants of the blast
until i got so good at hiding it, the only sign of my outburst became my clenched jaw

there′s a sick kind of satisfaction in knowing how capable you are of destruction
that is only born from being in the path of it for too long

everyone in my family has this anger
they show it in different ways (or not at all)

my dad is the silent type
my aunts are the gossip types
my uncles are the niche interest types
my grandparents hide it with excessive love
my mom is the one who taught me how to hide

and exercise

my own

they all have it

Why do you pretend you don't?

what has come between us all and why won't you fix it?
not that i want you to now because

.. it's awkward
and christmas eve is quiet.

every holiday is quiet without my family
what used to be boisterous and full of laughter that would only once in a blue moon be interrupted by searing words and air so thick it's hard to breathe
is now fragmented
Apart, we are all connected by this parasite

our beloved, ancient amulet

My Blood is electricity

By Mustafa Hall
Op-Ed Editor

I stand in my orange
bricked Brooklyn Apartment.
Age: 12 Queer but not out.
Not even to myself.

I hold my hand to my thin
chest to feel every beat of my heart with closed eyes.
With every pump that I feel,
I hope that it'll give me a clue. Or maybe even an answer.
Or possibly, It'll speak to me in some kind of
spiritual dialect only I can decipher.

With every thump of my young heart, I beg it'll help
answer the question
that's seared onto my tongue and
imprisoned with my teeth:
"where do I come from?"

Even now, Age: 21 Queer and very much out, that question still
coats my throat like melted honey. It almost chokes me.

This inquiry, similar to my Blackness,
is frozen in amber.
Like a thread unsewn to yards of fabric,
I am connected to broken roots that I must weld together (slowly and with care)
with my blood and
anxieties to form a map to a buried lineage.

A buried lineage that will open the gates to Home.
But what is home?

It's
simply
A
destination
that
never
stops
moving.

My Blackness will forever be trapped in
a cultural purgatory, where the air is thick with
Question marks and the water tastes of salted ancestral tears.

However,

in that state of stuckness, dialects were constructed by big
beautiful Black lips and smooth vowels and consonants that
sit in the very air we breathe.
Food traditions were passed down through eyes and memorization.
A cultural garden has bloomed in
soil that has been denied water for centuries
to form archaic genetic webs that grow and thrive in the lungs of Black bodies alike.

And whenever the question ″where do I come from″ comes violently scratching at my skin,
I simply reply, ″from everywhere and nowhere because
I am historically connected to a diaspora that is in constant motion and
to a heritage of electric kinship″

Muhlenberg wrestling hits the mat

By Noah Berger
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men's wrestling team is ready for a successful season. Entering this season, the Mules received high praise, coming in second in the Centennial Conference preseason poll. With three wrestlers on the team being recognized in the preseason national rankings, the Mules have high expectations for the upcoming season. The Mules began their season on Nov. 6 when they participated in the Alvernia Invitational.

The Alvernia Invitational was their first team tournament, but Nov. 17 is the home opening match at Memorial Hall against Scranton University. Nonetheless, the Invitational was an opportunity for the team to bond. According to Head Coach Jason McLean, "It gave the guys a chance to experience a trip together and develop some camaraderie and support one another. The week's practice will be the true preparation."

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Athletics Department

Ricky Caamano '24 pins opponent to the mat.

Luca Colestock '22 highlighted the effort and competitiveness of the team throughout the invitational, as well as some of his personal goals this season. "Looking at how we did at Alvernia, we are extremely happy with how the team competed. We're definitely looking to keep the momentum going into a span of some strong competition the next couple weeks. In the meantime, we're going to continue to work on the things we need to improve on. As an individual, it's no different. I'm happy with my performance but have things I need to improve on to be at the level I want to be at later in the year. Regardless, I plan on building this weekend and enjoy being back to competing," he said.

Deon Savage '24 also spoke about his own goals, and the goals of the team, in the upcoming season. "My goal is simply to become a better wrestler and take it one match at a time and see where it goes from there. I know what I am capable of; it's up to me to reach my potential. I believe we are one of the best teams in the country and will have multiple All-Americans. I want us to pull off some upsets against teams ranked above us. Most of all, I want us to have fun and become closer as a team this year. I think the future is bright especially with all the young talent on our team," said Savage.

When looking forward to the rest of the season, Colestock was optimistic. He said, "As a team, we're looking to break the top 10 nationally and prove we're a growing national powerhouse. We talk a lot about how it's not just about the current team, but putting in work for the future groups and building a program we are all proud to say we were a part of. As for myself, coming off how my sophomore year ended, and a year without competing, the only goal is to be an All-American. Two years ago, we all felt like we had an opportunity taken from us and now I can settle some unfinished business in March when we're back in Cedar Rapids."

Savage shared some positive thoughts when looking at the team's upcoming matches. He said, "We all [took] notes and are aware of what we need to improve on. It was our first tournament and some of us haven't had competition in nearly, two years so we were dusting off the cobwebs, but it's still our job to go back to the practice room and improve. There were also a lot of good things we did that will boost our confidence moving forward."

Despite the majority of the team being underclassmen, and with graduation looming, Colestock does not believe it will impact the chemistry of the team whatsoever. "We have a great group of underclassmen who are talented and hungry. They're going to take some losses here and there, and some did, but every one of them fought hard and I'm excited to see them figure it out. With that being said, we all have high expectations for these kids, and I know for sure a number of them have even higher expectations for themselves."

While the team was successful at the Alvernia Invitational, they certainly left a lot on the mat to improve. As McLean expressed, "Good start for younger guys but a ton of improvements to be made. [It] was a great day to begin 20 Muhlenberg wrestling careers."

Men's soccer hits stride with ECAC

By Noah Berger
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men's soccer team ended their regular season with a 2-1 home victory on Oct. 30 against the Gettysburg College Bullets. With the win, the Mules improved their overall winning record of in- and out-of-conference play to 7-7-2.

Within the Centennial Conference, they struggled mightily with a total 2-6-1 record. However, their season is not done yet. The team has recently been selected to join the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournament, a smaller tournament compared to the NCAA DIII tournament. Their first match will be played on Nov. 13 against the Alvernia University Golden Wolves. If they win, they'll play the winners of Springfield vs. Rutgers-Camden on Nov. 14. The championship round is scheduled for the following weekend against the winner of the opposite side of the bracket.

While the ECAC tournament was not their preseason goal, they are still excited to prove themselves and hopefully come out on top by tournament's end.

"We are coming off a strong win against Gettysburg in the conference finale. We feel like we have the momentum on our side," said midfielder Phillip Bell '22. "Set pieces are something that we have not been the strongest at this season, so we definitely are going to be working on that this week in practice."

Chris Richards '23 spoke on what he wanted to improve upon for the ECAC tournament. He said, "Individually, I've been trying to increase my speed of play and positioning so I can do what the team needs of me. The COVID break definitely played a factor in the execution of some of my goals for this season, but I've been trying to prioritize fitness and making sure I'm doing the little things right to ensure I get back on track for the end of the season."

While Bell was excited to end the season on a positive note, he is looking forward to playing in the ECAC tournament. "We are definitely looking forward to having the opportunity to play more soccer. I think the ECAC gives us a chance to prove to other teams, and more importantly, ourselves, that we are better than our record shows," Bell said.

Richards also described the team's mindset heading into their first ECAC match against Alvernia University. "We are going into this tournament with every intention to come back with some hardware. We've had a great season this year in terms of personnel, we've just gotten unlucky down the stretch in some games which has put us at a disadvantage. But regardless of our record, we still have a chance to go out with a win and build for next year, so with that in mind we are all in for the next two weeks. The team is excited to prove that our record or our season is not an accurate reflection of the talent and potential this team has," Richards said.

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Athletics Department

The Muhlenberg men's soccer team scored an ECAC tournament bid.

Since Bell is a senior, his tenure as a member of the 'Berg soccer team will end after the conclusion of the tournament. "It means the world to me that I am able to step on the field again with my teammates, who over the course of the season became my brothers," he said.

It is evident how impactful the soccer team has had on Bell's identity during his time at Muhlenberg, and that he will never forget the memories and relationships that he formed.

Richards reflected on the lessons and encouragement that he and his fellow teammates have learned from their coaching staff. He said, "Our entire coaching staff has reminded our team that not every team gets the chance to play in the postseason, so when the opportunity presents itself, it can't be something that we don't take seriously. Any chance to play more games in a season is only going to benefit our squad moving forward. [Head Coach] Topping '98 has lit a fire underneath our team by getting everyone excited to play and defend our title as ECAC champs in 2019."

‘Berg Basketball opens the season with a victory

By Josh Botel
Contributing Writer

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Athletics Department

Justin Allen ‘23 lining himself up to score.

Muhlenberg basketball showed up at home Friday, Nov. 5, with a decisive 94-71 victory over the Moravian University Greyhounds. Dan Gaines ‘22 led the team in scoring with 24 points and also had nine rebounds and six assists. Dallas Hoffman ‘22 contributed as well with 23 points to help the Mules secure a victory.

Four players scored their first career points: Bryce Nash ‘23, Brandon Goldberg ‘24, Micah Coates ‘25 and Jayson Williams-Johnson ‘25.

Head Coach Kevin Hopkins spoke about the team’s performance and praised his group. “It was our first game back in Memorial Hall since February [of] 2020 when we played Washington College in the first round of the Centennial Conference playoffs, so I was excited to see our guys flying around the court communicating, competing and making plays for their teammates. I thought that our defensive effort and activity, especially to end the first half and to start the second half, were instrumental in jumpstarting our offense and helping us build a lead.”

He also expressed what he felt his team needs to work on. “We need to continue to work on doing a better job of rebounding and taking care of the basketball, but overall I thought the guys did a great job and it was exciting to start to see some of the results that are a product of all the hard work that they have put in over the last year and half.”

Gaines, given an honorable mention on the Division III preseason All-American team as well as the Centennial Conference player of the week on Tuesday Nov. 9, is pumped to return to the hardwood court. “I think the whole team was just excited and eager to get out there and play a real game. Our assistant coach, Coach Hallman, kept reminding us of the weeks that we couldn’t even use balls during practice, so I think we were all just grateful leading up to and during the game against Moravian.”

Hopkins also talked about what it is like to build team chemistry. “The guys on our team have told me that this is the closest team we have had, both on and off the court. I think that our older guys, especially our senior group, have done a tremendous job of connecting with the younger players and making sure they understand what our Muhlenberg basketball program is about and what our expectations are for them as people and as players. I think that their camaraderie off the court is clearly visible and carries over once they step on the court to play.”

External expectations for the team may appear high, but the Mules’ expectations of themselves are much higher than any outside group. “We expect the people in our program to keep showing up, to be curious, to keep finding ways to make a positive impact on ourselves and others, and to keep doing the next right thing,” said Hopkins.

“Our coaching staff is grateful for the opportunity to work with this group of guys and we are excited to see the journey that this season takes us on.”

Gaines shared a similar response to his coach. “I think all of the freshmen have done a great job and have bought into what our program is trying to accomplish. We are all a tight-knit group on and off the court and all have confidence in each other. Our coaches have also done a great job building chemistry amongst the players.”

Although it may be easy to think about long term goals, Gaines and the rest of his teammates are focused only on short term ones. “I think our goal as a team is to improve each day in practice/games and ultimately compete for a Centennial Conference championship and make some noise in the national tournament as well. Personally, I want to do my best to be a leader on this team so that we can attain these goals,” Gaines said.

Instead of praising himself after receiving a preseason All-American honorable mention, Gaines chose to highlight the teammates and coaches who’ve gotten him to where he is. “I was honored to be considered an honorable mention but at the same time give almost all the credit to my teammates and coaches,” Gaines said. “They consistently put me in positions to succeed and make it much easier for me. I am excited and hopeful to make a positive impact on the underclassmen and help them as much as possible as they feel their way through their first college games.”

When asked about winning Centennial Conference player of the week, Gaines said, “It was a team effort.”

On Nov. 9, the Mules traveled to Madison, NJ to take on the Drew University Rangers where they pulled out a 81-76 victory. They will participate in the Rinso Marquette Invitational on Friday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. when they take on Penn State Harrisburg at Lebanon Valley College.

From **Vloggers** page 8

22 million viewers witness the terror-stricken child scream as she emerges from the bathroom, coated in violet. When the prank is revealed, Everleigh says, “You got me, Dad,” as if to cue a commercial break. Clearly, the LaBrants have no qualms about staging their own version of “The Truman Show.”

While these pranks are physically harmless, emotional consequences may follow money-hungry parents manipulating their children’s lives like movies. With clickbait titles like, “Breaking The Bad News To Everleigh,” “Finding Out The Truth About Everleigh!!!” and “Why We Haven’t Been Seeing Everleigh As Much Recently,” do the LaBrants see Everleigh as their beloved child, or the lead actor in their never-ending reality show?

This isn’t just a theoretical problem; there are real world consequences to family vloggers’ actions. In the most extreme cases, parents have lost custody of their children due to mental and emotional abuse. Mike Martin, who operated the now-terminated Youtube channel “DaddyOFive, ” used to post “prank” videos featuring himself screaming in rage at his five school-age children. One time, he even told the youngest, Cody, that he was being put up for adoption. At the channel’s peak, it had 750,000 subscribers and sustained Martin’s livelihood. Youtube eventually suspended the channel when Martin and his wife were charged with child abuse over this mistreatment. They received five years of supervised probation. The LaBrants should consider DaddyOFive a cautionary tale. There are limits to “light-heartedly” causing your child emotional distress.

One may think, at the very least, children would be compensated for their participation in their parents’ staged, overwrought videos. Not true! And, there is no guarantee that parents will ever use their income to benefit the child. Traditionally (at least in California), child actors are protected under what is known as the Coogan Law. Enacted in 1939, this law requires that at least 15 percent of a child actor’s earnings be deposited into a trust, inaccessible to the child’s parents. The law was named for Jackie Coogan, famed child star of Hollywood’s silent film era. Coogan sued his mother and step-father for squandering his multi-million-dollar fortune made as a child star. Outrage over Coogan’s parents’ behavior spurred the enactment of the law.

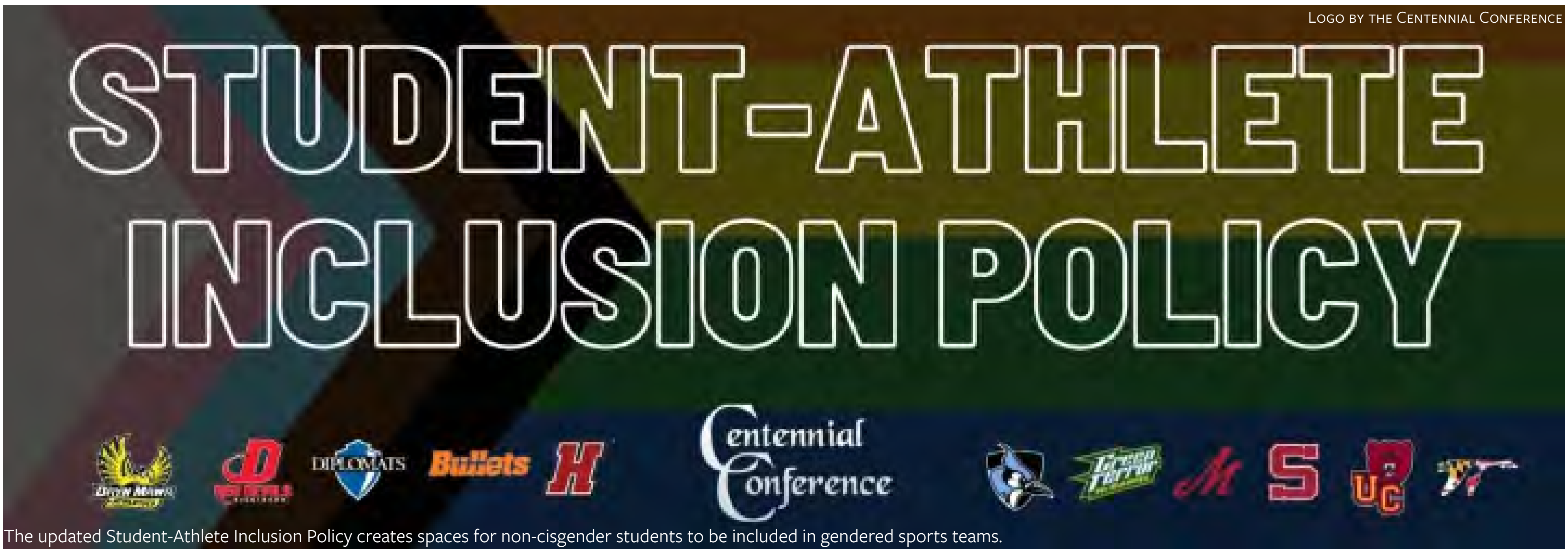
In 2018, it was decided by California lawmakers that digital stars did not qualify for protection under the Coogan Law. The legislature determined that the roles played by social media kids are much less substantial than those on a Hollywood set. Therefore, the pressures made on their lives were not comparable and the children were not considered worthy of financial protection. Without Coogan, children are left vulnerable to their parents’ exploitation. As family vlogging becomes more prevalent, state legislatures should enact versions of the Coogan Law to protect a child’s financial position as well as emotional well-being.

That said, not all family vlogging is terrible. When neither staged nor abusive, family vlogging can become the popular and endearing genre it aspires to be. Youtuber Colleen Ballinger is one example of a wholesome family vlogger. Achieving Youtube stardom a decade before motherhood as the noted character Miranda Sings, Ballinger has earned fame and wealth in her own right—something that cannot be said of the LaBrants. Unlike the LaBrants, Ballinger rarely uses her son’s face as clickbait and never films him in compromising or staged situations. When comparing Ballinger’s 12 most recent videos on “Colleen Vlogs,” to that of “The LaBrant Fam,” her child is seen in two thumbnails, compared to the LaBrant’s eleven. Ballinger’s 10 remaining thumbnails feature only herself, indicating that her audience is there to watch her live her life, not exploit her two-year-old son. Ballinger provides comforting escapist entertainment and also a platform for other parents to observe and evaluate when making their own parental decisions.

Of course, nobody is perfect. Ballinger may not share particularly embarrassing content, but she does share lots (and lots) of “cutesy” content. But staged or real, exploitative or incidental, does exposure of one’s children to mass audiences cross a line of ethics? Ballinger has certainly thrust her son into the public domain. In 10 years, will he be embarrassed by it? In 20 or 40 years, will he be proud of it?

As an unprecedented generation of family vlogger children grows up, only time will tell how the constant documentation of their lives will affect them. In the meantime, consumers ought to think critically about the content they engage with, and exactly what level of exploitation they are willing to accept.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Logo by the Centennial Conference

The updated Student-Athlete Inclusion Policy creates spaces for non-cisgender students to be included in gendered sports teams.

A space for all athletes

By Ayden Levine
Photo Editor

Inclusion in sports for those who do not fall in the gender binary is something that has been a sensitive topic throughout history. Just two weeks ago, on Oct. 26, Texas governor Greg Abbott signed a bill into law banning transgender athletes from playing on the sports team that fits with the gender that they identify as. This makes Texas the tenth state to have such a law.

Over the summer, the Centennial Conference, in conjunction with advisors from various backgrounds, worked to create an updated Student-Athlete Inclusion Policy to foster spaces for transgender, non-binary and gender-fluid athletes to compete in school sports.

Amber Thomas, coordinator of sports administration for the Centennial Conference and the Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee noted, "We really wanted to create a policy that could [allow us to be] the most inclusive that we can. So, over the last couple of months, we've held forums for our presidents, athletic directors, our athletics diversity inclusion designees… our coaches and our SAAC [Student Athlete Advisory Committee]… to have conversations about what we wanted to see out of this policy."

Thomas continued, "We're not the first conference to create such an inclusion policy, but we do have pretty much the most up-to-date policy because we added modern terminology, best practices and also resources. The NCAA released their policy in 2011, so it's definitely been a while since the policy was first established. We definitely wanted to come with a modern look on things. We also paired our policy with programming that included training for administrators, coaches and athletic staff with the non-profit organization called Athlete Ally."

In creating the Student-Athlete Inclusion Policy, representatives from each of the eleven Centennial Conference schools were consulted to ensure that the policy reflected each school's needs and values. Sarah Leavenworth, assistant director of athletics, head softball coach and the Muhlenberg representative for the Centennial Conference said, "I received updated copies of the document as it went through the various editing stages. There were two meetings to discuss the document for people at my level of involvement… It was very good to get it down on paper and put it out there so that student-athletes interested in participating at Muhlenberg would understand how they might be protected, accommodated and cared for all of those different things." Surprisingly, according to Leavenworth, "There wasn't a lot in the document that was created that Muhlenberg wasn't already doing."

Megan Patruno, associate director of athletics expanded on this. "I believe the Centennial Conference inclusion policy aligns with Muhlenberg College's Transgender Student-Athlete Inclusion Policies as well as with the College's general discrimination policies. Muhlenberg is committed to an inclusive educational environment and these policies support that commitment."

Patruno continued saying, "Muhlenberg College also developed a Transgender Student-Athlete Inclusion Policy this summer and fall. Our policy includes elements from the Centennial Conference policy, but also from the NCAA's policy that was instituted in 2011. We follow all NCAA rules and guidelines. We are developing a specific Student-Athlete Resource page on our athletics website. In that space, we will include our inclusion policy and other links to important information for our student-athletes. We hope to have this page up and running very soon."

The updated Student-Athlete Inclusion Policy is broken down into a few sections: Inclusive Practices within the Conference, Education, Opposing Teams/Institutions, Definitions, Ensuring Full Participation for Trans and Non-Binary Student-Athletes and a statement on the Annual Review of the Student-Athlete Inclusion Policy. Most striking is the policy's outlining of how non-cisgender athletes can compete on gendered teams. The policy states:

"A transgender male student-athlete who has received a medical exception for, and is being treated with, testosterone for purposes of NCAA competition may compete on a men's team, but is no longer eligible to compete on a women's team without changing that team status to a mixed team. A transgender female student-athlete being treated with testosterone suppression medication, or who has undergone surgical intervention to suppress testosterone production, for gender transition, may continue to compete on a men's team but may not compete on a women's team without changing it to a mixed team status until completing one calendar year of documented testosterone-suppression treatment. A student who identifies as gender fluid, genderqueer, non-binary, agender or another gender outside the gender binary not taking hormones may participate in sex-separated sports activities in accordance with the individual's assigned birth sex."

Unfortunately, this could be exclusionary towards students who don't have access to such resources or who chose not to pursue surgical or hormonal options.

Additionally, the Centennial Conference supported protections for non-cisgender athletes against retaliations. As the policy reads:

"The Centennial Conference encourages its membership to create institutional policies and best practices for transgender-student athlete participation and inclusion. Centennial Conference members should have written policies to protect the rights of transgender and non-binary individuals and to ensure retaliation does not occur to any transgender or non-binary individual."

When asked about whether there has been any pushback by colleges or affiliates of colleges on the new policy, Thomas replied, "No, all of our schools really play a huge part in creating this policy. So there really hasn't been any pushback, each college president was very hands on with what this policy says. The athletic directors, coaches. I feel like everyone, I hope everyone, felt like they had a voice in this, and we all just want to be as inclusive as we can the most equitable when it comes to creating opportunities for student athletes."

Thomas added, "We were super excited about the creation of this policy. We hope this will continue to create conversations around inclusion in sport."

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Nov. 11 - Nov. 18

Football
Muhlenberg vs Moravian
Saturday, Nov. 13 @ 12:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Cabrini
Saturday, Nov. 13 @ 1:00 p.m.
Radnor, Pa.

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs DeSales
Tuesday, Nov. 16 @ 3:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Scranton
Wednesday, Nov. 17 @ 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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NEWS

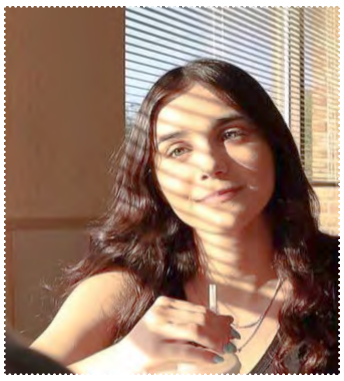
Holocaust survivor comes to 'Berg and talks about his experience.

read more on 2

ARTS & CULTURE

REM Collective film premieres.

read more on 5



OP/ED

Ava Duskic '23 argues why on-campus jobs need higher wages.

read more on 7

SPORTS

Look at the history of Marti the Mule.

read more on 10

MUHLENBERG

NEWS

Student research

read more on page 1

Results
Living on the Coast and Risk Perception
Conclusion
Muhlenberg College

Inaugurating a new era

'Berg celebrates first female president.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

BY MATTHEW BARESH
STAFF WRITER

History was made in Allentown this past weekend as Kathleen Harring was inaugurated as the thirteenth president of Muhlenberg College. Harring is the first female to hold the position of president at Muhlenberg, paving the way for a new and progressive future. Her involvement with the College dates back to 1984, when she joined the psychology department as a professor.

Since then, Harring has held positions as chair of the psychology department, director of the Faculty Center for Teaching, associate dean of institutional assessment, dean of institutional assessment & academic planning, vice president and dean of institutional effectiveness and planning, provost, and now president.

The ceremony on Nov. 12 was held at the Life Sports Center in Memorial Hall, which had a total makeover with a stage, curtains, lights and touches of cardinal red for school pride. Muhlenberg welcomed students, faculty, staff, parents and community members to be a part of this momentous occasion.

The inauguration event started with a melody sung by Muhlenberg's chamber choir.

Sam Jones '25, a member of the chamber choir, shared, "It was really special to be a part of history in our first female president's inauguration. There probably won't be another event like that in the rest of my time at Muhlenberg, so I felt really fortunate. I'm so glad that the chamber choir was there to sing because I've heard that Kathleen Harring really likes choral music."

Following the chamber choir, a number of speakers shared their experiences and stories with Harring and expressed their gratitude towards her and her goals for the future. The officials included Allentown's State Representative Mike Schlossberg '05, State Senator Pat Browne, Allentown Mayor Ray O'Connell and Congresswoman Susan Wild, Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong and Bishop Christopher DeForest.

"I thought it was a very nice ceremony, and it was nice that there was so much support from other people with all of the representatives. The reception was very nice and the school was totally transformed for this ceremony," said Paige Jones '22, a student delegate at the event representing Alpha Epsilon Delta, Muhlenberg's pre-health honor society.

L. Jay Lemons, experienced academic administrator and friend to Harring, gave an introductory address preceding the investiture focusing on Harring's strengths as an administrator and person. Lastly, Muhlenberg College Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Crist Jr. introduced Muhlenberg's new president, Kathleen Harring, before presenting her with the College's presidential medallion to make her position official.

She gave a compelling 20 minute speech in which she focused on the idea of "wicked problems," worldwide social and cultural issues that are very difficult to solve due to their complexity. Harring suggested that the connections created in close-knit communities like Muhlenberg College are the stepping stones for helping to lessen these problems. Specific "wicked problems" that Harring mentioned were the structures of education in colleges, sustainability, poverty and financial crises.

Harring also shouted out current students and alumni who have been solving wicked problems, such as Kevan Shah '22, who recently acquired a $100,000 grant for Muhlenberg to further efforts against opioid overdose. She also mentioned Bradbury Sullivan Center founder and member of Biden's Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS Adrian Shanker '09.

Harring mentioned "Wicked problems require knowledge and skills across disciplines. They present ongoing challenges, often have ambiguous causes and evolving consequences. "

Ending her speech, Harring shared her goals for a brighter future and hopes to sustain and improve the quality of liberal arts education here at Muhlenberg College.

Another facet of the weekend's celebration was the launch of the Boundless campaign. This

SEE **INAUGURATION** PAGE 4

New grad program introduced

BY KATHERINE DICKEY
MANAGING EDITOR

As the School of Graduate Studies expands, it is important for Muhlenberg students to know what opportunities become available to them. For example, one of its two graduate degrees, the Master's in Applied Analytics (MAA) recently introduced a 4+1 program for Muhlenberg undergraduates, through which they can integrate some graduate courses into their undergraduate education and finish the graduate degree in just one extra year.

David Donnelly, Ph.D., dean of the school of graduate studies, emphasized the benefit students will receive in shortening their degrees, saying, "It allows students to double count up

SEE **GRAD PROGRAM** PAGE 3

Students present research

BY SABRINA VITALE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

This past weekend marked a milestone for the Muhlenberg community. President Kathleen Harring was officially sworn in as the College's first female president. Although she has served as the president for some time, inauguration and other festivities have been cancelled and rescheduled throughout the past two years due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

However, this weekend students, faculty and alumni were finally able to partake in celebratory campus-based activities and events. One of the most notable of these events was the Research Poster Fair that took place on Saturday, Nov. 13.

The Baker Center for the Arts was completely full of poster boards that ran the length of the hall. Students, faculty, staff, family members and alumni were invited to visit the event and

SEE **RESEARCH** PAGE 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

11/08/2021
On Campus Location: Report of found debit card, owner later claimed item.
Anthropology/Sociology: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
The Village: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

11/09/2021
Trexler Library Lot: Report of vehicle illegally parked with excessive parking tickets, vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer, boot later removed.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of damage and theft of exit sign, unknown who damaged sign. Plant Operations notified to repair.
Walz Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.

11/10/2021
Seegers Union: Report of found clutch, unknown to whom item belongs, clutch placed in lost and found locker.
Prosser Lot: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.

11/12/2021
Prosser Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further medical treatment or transport.
Martin Luther Hall: Report to jump start vehicle Campus Safety Officer successfully jump started vehicle.
Chew Street: Report of alcohol violation, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

11/13/2021
Stadium Back Drive: Report of minor motor vehicle accident causing minor damage to both vehicles, parties exchanged insurance information, no further incident.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of alcohol violation, alcohol disposed of by Campus Safety Officer, no further incident.

11/14/2021
N. 22nd Street: Report of fire alarm, Allentown Fire Department also responded, no cause could be found at this time.
On Campus Location: Report of damage found to gate, Whiting Turner notified, no suspects at this time.
Life Sports Center: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital via friend.

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Java Joe

Following Kristallnacht anniversary Holocaust survivor speaks at Hillel

By Matthew Klinger
Contributing Writer

On Veterans Day and shortly following the anniversary of Kristallnacht Fred Heyman, a Holocaust survivor who also served in the Korean War, came to speak at the Leffel Center for Jewish Student Life. After being introduced by Amanda Bloom ‘23, Heyman shared a 40 minute documentary, produced by Howard Goldberg, about his life. Heyman then answered questions about the film and gave advice to college students in attendance.

Heyman was born in 1929 in Berlin, Germany. However, a few years into his life, everything changed. In 1933, Hitler took power and his anti-Semitic policies started being implemented. Heyman remembers hearing Hitler’s victory speech on the radio.

One night, the Gestapo came to his house looking for him. His mother sent him to bed, telling him to look sick, in hopes that it would deter the Nazis from taking him. It didn’t stop the Gestapo from coming up to Heyman’s room. One of the officers felt his forehead and it was obvious that he was not sick. Yet, instead of taking Heyman, the officer said that they “could not use a sick Jew” and left the house. That memory has a lasting impact on Heyman. If his supervisors had found out he had let a Jewish child go, the officer could have been killed; in saving Heyman’s life, he was risking his own. Heyman emphasized that one moment of upstanding can change a life.

Heyman has encouraged many to become upstanders, sharing his harrowing story as a Holocaust survivor to show what happens when people idly stand by in the midst of hate. One of the ways that he has inspired others is through the program Twin with a Survivor. In the program, Jewish children who are soon to have a bar or bat mitzvah are paired with a Holocaust survivor to build connections and family. It is a chance for young Jewish people to learn from the few Holocaust survivors that are left. Not only do they impart religious guidance, but general life-lessons as well. For Heyman, it is special because his own children and grandchildren live far away from him. His favorite part of twinning is “putting myself mentally into the shoes of those twins.”

The connections that Heyman forms with Twin with a Survivor participants have profound impacts on them. One twin, when asked about Heyman, said that “[he] is my twin, one of my best friends and my fifth grandparent.” Another girl said, “[Heyman] gave me a passion for justice.” Even after they graduate from the program, the bond formed between Heyman and the kids that he mentors remains strong and intact.

“Fred Heyman is extremely important to my family and I,” said Bloom, the student organizer of the event. “For my sister’s bat mitzvah we all ‘twinned’ with Fred and got to hear his life story. I wanted to bring Fred to Muhlenberg so that he could see why Muhlenberg is such a special place... There are not many Holocaust survivors left. Therefore, it’s important we listen to the stories of the ones we have left; Fred is so important to me and I wanted to give him the opportunity to share his story with the Muhlenberg community.”

Heyman ended his presentation with a challenge for Muhlenberg students. “I beg all of you, starting today, to be upstanders,” he said. “By being an upstander, you’re making the world better and you’re making your life better... It was because of others being a bystander that I became an upstander.”

How can one become an upstander? According to Heyman, being an upstander starts with eliminating hate. “You cannot use that word, it is the opposite of love. For 12 years, I had that h-word used against me... using that word leads to bullying in school, it leads to crime, and it ultimately lead to the Holocaust.”

Heyman’s talk was well received by students. Will Kalmanoff ‘24 said, “I learned a lot and gained a bigger perspective of what happened during the Holocaust.”

Isaac Shulman ‘25 also liked the event, saying that “it was really impactful when he talked about not using the word hate and thinking about it as really a decisive construct that separates people.”

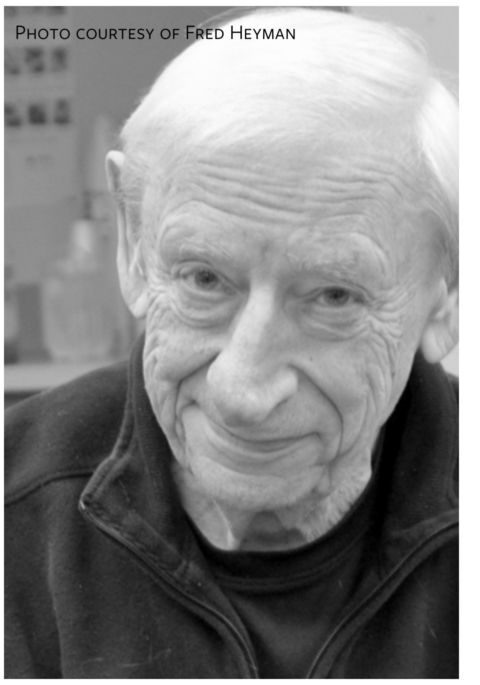
Photo courtesy of Fred Heyman

Fred Heyman, Holocaust survivor from Berlin, Germany.

Ira Blum, Hillel director, added, “Every year there are fewer Holocaust survivors in our midst, and it is so important that we listen to, honor and remember their memories, stories and lessons. This is especially true with our responsibility as allies and upstanders in the face of injustice. This is one of the ways that we are living right now through a transitional moment in Jewish life.”

From **Grad Program** page 1

to four classes for both the undergraduate degree and the graduate degree. That cuts the number of required classes. If you were to do an undergraduate and a graduate degree, typically it would be 44 classes; that cuts it down to 40 classes that are required. So it allows students to save money and allows students to get—in essence—an accelerated graduate degree in a year. Once they graduate, they’re coming into a field, probably at a higher salary level and more prepared and with another credential under their belt.”

There are a series of four math courses that serve as credit equivalents for introductory courses in the MAA sequence. By taking any of these undergraduate courses and earning a B or better, students can skip taking those corresponding courses in the MAA and potentially shave two semesters off their master’s degree. In the traditional MAA program, students take two courses per semester and finish in two full years (including summer semesters).

James Russell, Ph.D., assistant professor of statistics, said of the inspiration to start the program, “I was interested in creating the program so that we could offer our students more options to learn about statistics. Since there are lots of opportunities out there in statistics right now, I see it as a great opportunity for students.”

Allison Davidson, Ph.D., associate professor of statistics, described choosing undergraduate courses that had parallels with existing master’s courses, saying, “I worked closely with my colleagues within Muhlenberg’s mathematics & computer science department as well as Richard Glejzer, the interim dean of graduate studies at the time.”

Donnelly advises that students majoring in math, statistics or computer science will have the simplest path in double counting the required courses to successfully complete the MAA. Students will also need at least a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) in their undergraduate studies to continue in the school of graduate studies after their commencement. Both the interested student’s advisor and someone from the graduate school can work with them starting in their junior year to help them figure out their road to graduation. According to Donnelly, “Graduate tuition is $3200 per course, including all textbooks and most fees. While enrolled as an undergraduate student, students in the 4 +1 pay undergraduate tuition in the fall and spring, and summer graduate courses will be billed at the graduate rate.”

As for what students think of the new option, Sarah Koenig ‘23, a statistics minor, said, “I don’t know a ton about it, but right now I don’t think I’m interested in grad school right after undergrad. While I’m really excited about my stats minor, I don’t think I want to go into data analytics. It’s probably really useful for anyone interested in data analytics. It also is only one year post grad, as opposed to a masters program that would take longer than that, so it would get you working faster.”

Photo by Cole Geissler ’21

The Gabriel House is home to Muhlenberg’s Continuing Education and Graduate Program.

Gabe Walsh-Shore ‘22, a theatre and math double-major, said, “I think this program benefits those who really want to take mathematics and run with it. I’m not sure if people outside of the STEM majors would feel that they would feel supported in it, even though it’s possible to do so. I was actually only made aware that the program existed a few months ago, so I don’t know how many people know about it (and know that they don’t necessarily have to be a math major to participate).”

Charis Hall ‘22, a math and dance double-major added, “I personally am not interested in the program because I’m not all that interested in analytics in general and I’ve decided not to go straight to grad school after graduating anyway. I think it could be a good option for some people though, probably someone looking to start a career working in analytics. It’s a skill that’s in high demand right now so it would allow students to start making money sooner.”

As Davidson said, “A variety of students can benefit from the implementation of this program. Data analytics, computer science and statistics are all highly marketable skills that employers in a plethora of areas would find beneficial. Earning a Master’s in Applied Analytics (MAA) can provide students a competitive advantage.”

FROM **RESEARCH** PAGE 1

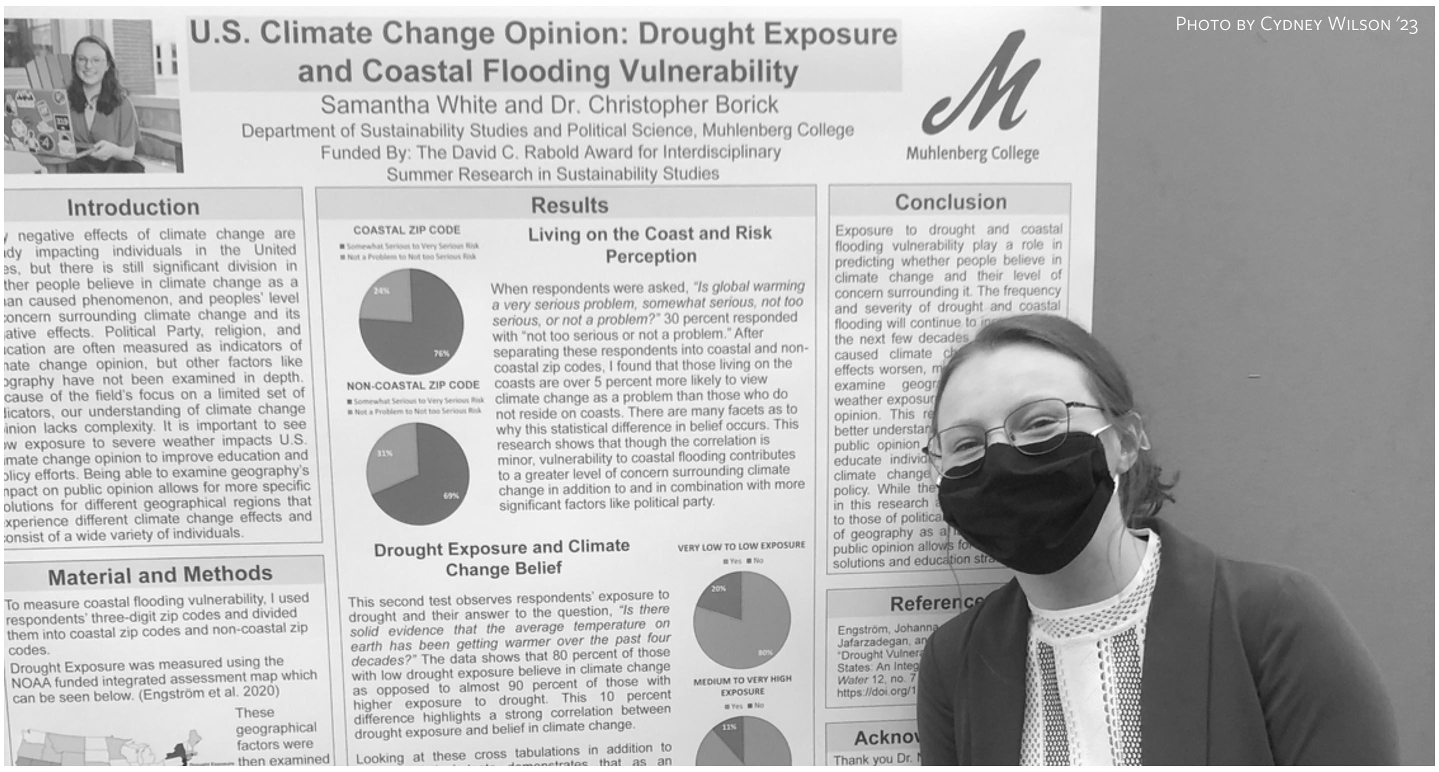
U.S. Climate Change Opinion: Drought Exposure and Coastal Flooding Vulnerability
Samantha White and Dr. Christopher Borick
Department of Sustainability Studies and Political Science, Muhlenberg College
Funded By: The David C. Rabold Award for Interdisciplinary Summer Research in Sustainability Studies
Muhlenberg College
Introduction
Results
Conclusion
Living on the Coast and Risk Perception
Material and Methods
Drought Exposure and Climate Change Belief
References
Acknow

PHOTO BY CYDNEY WILSON '23

Samantha White ’23 presents her research on U.S. Climate Change Opinion during the fair on Saturday.

ask the researchers questions about their projects.

Elizabeth Nathanson, Ph.D., chair of the media and communication department, said, “I’m incredibly impressed by the number of both student projects and the people talking with the students about their projects. It’s a sign of a rich and vibrant research community that′s hugely supportive and interested and curious about projects that are going on across the curriculum. It’s wonderful to see.”

As Nathanson mentioned, the diversity among these student projects was astounding. She further remarked that, “Just wandering around and seeing all of the departments and the areas of scholarship that are represented… It’s really inspiring… One of the best parts of my job is seeing students take their own research agendas and run with them and then present that work to others and become their own experts.”

The term “research” is sometimes stereotyped as being strictly scientific but, as proved by this poster fair, there was a huge range of subjects being studied.

Olivia Sica ’22 presented their project called “I Miss You - Queer Femme Intimacies With Heterotopic Boy Bands” which examined the research question: “Why are queer women so drawn to BTS when on the surface they appear to cater to a straight female audience?” As a first-time participant in this event, Sica highlighted that, “There are a bunch of different disciplines [being presented] here.”

Another project, presented by Nyjah Johnson ’22, examined enzyme iron-binding by observing four different enzymes over an extended period of time. It was her first time presenting at the poster fair as well and she mentioned, “I was super nervous initially. But I got some super cool people to talk to and work with.”

It was impossible to walk into this poster fair without finding one subject or presentation that stood out to you. This range of projects and studies made the event enticing and enjoyable. However, putting it together took collective effort and passion from everyone involved.

Keri Colabroy, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, undergraduate research coordinator, and coordinator of this event explained that, “[Putting together this event was] busy, but it was also really fun. I love seeing all of the different projects. I love seeing students’ creativity come out in their posters. So the best part is when I get to hang up all the posters and see how beautiful they are. The worst part is trying to catch all of the typos in the program.”

Participants in this event worked extremely hard and it was reflected in the work presented at the fair this weekend. Arielle Touitou ‘24 came across the event through a schoolwide email and said, “I think [it went] super well! At least for me, I’m able to see so much more of what happens on campus.”

Moreover, choosing to showcase an event of this caliber on Inauguration Weekend was not a coincidence but rather a conscious decision. Colabroy explains that, “[The Research Poster Fair] reflects the festivities of Inauguration Weekend because Kathy Harring was and is so incredibly invested in transformative student experiences like this. When Kathy was the dean of assessment and the provost, she loved this event and helped me put it on and she cares a lot about student research. So I think this was a great match, to have it be part of [the] inauguration. It’s exactly expressing the kind of stuff Kathy values.”

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FROM **INAUGURATION** PAGE 1

new campaign is striving to raise 111 million dollars for several causes on Muhlenberg’s campus. The money is being granted to endowments for professors, a Seegers Union expansion, more financial aid opportunities and several general funds. The campaign is described by the College as a method to “secure funding for a comprehensive, interconnected group of strategic priorities that will shape students’ academic and residential experience for decades to come.”

Though the campaign’s goals are ambitious, its message is unclear to students. “I truly don’t know anything about [the campaign],” stated Dana Bonner ‘22. “I wasn’t here all weekend. All I saw was the big sign and some of the flags that said ‘Boundless’… but that’s all I really know about it. I don’t even know what it’s for.”

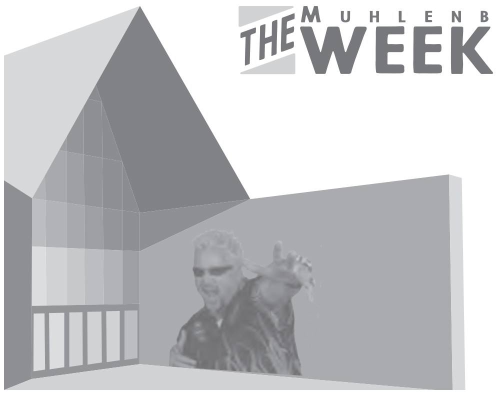
“I don’t know much about the Boundless campaign,” Sarah O’Sullivan ‘22 echoed. She went on to voice mixed opinions. “I watched a snippet of the video and I think it’s a good idea in theory. I think they’re raising money to have better resources and more materials and all of that… but I’m not sure if now is the right time. Seeing it say ‘Boundless’ when there are still bounds in place of wearing masks and it’s not completely normal yet is a little weird. It doesn’t feel right.”

Though the campaign has received mixed reception, the inauguration ceremony overall was viewed as a positive milestone for Muhlenberg. “I was thrilled to have the chance to be a part of history. I loved sitting in and watching Harring take her place as president,” said Connor Baker ‘22, another student delegate.

Jeremy DerMovsesian ‘25, a member of the choir group, said, “Both nights were pretty unique. A presidential inauguration and a launching of a campaign aren’t something you get to experience very often. It was nice being able to take it all in and be involved both nights.”

“It was a nice event with some great speeches and the choir did really well,” shared Josh Botel ‘25. “I also thought the overall setup of the event was very impressive and I loved the reception afterwards. The event itself was enjoyable, and I’m happy for our new president.”

The ceremony continued at the reception, held in the field house, which featured lavish decor, finger foods and an uplifting atmosphere to celebrate Harring, her accomplishments and the College.



"If you're cooking and not making mistakes, you're not playing outside your safety zone. I don't expect it all to be good. I have fat dogs because I scrap that stuff out the back door." - Guy Fieri

Food trucks at Muhlenberg

Photo courtesy of Cactus Blue / Instagram

One of the food trucks, Cactus Blue, offers a diverse dining option compared to the dining hall and GQ food.

By Gabi Hirshfield
Contributing Writer

This semester, the Muhlenberg Dining Services management team introduced food trucks on campus. These food trucks are based in the Lehigh Valley and each have their own unique menus ranging from Mexican to Greek food.

Many students have been excited about these new dining options. Erin Foertsch, Muhlenberg Dining Services' marketing director, talks about the way that these outside vendors fit in with the parameters set by the College's Sodexo dining services. "For the most part, vendors are able to offer their own unique menus. We only like to ensure that each menu offers a complete meal—a variety of entrees, sides and beverages. It has been great to see students get excited about what each food truck offers," stated Foertsch.

Some students, however, are concerned about the prices of the food at these trucks. Ryan Dratler '24 stated, "The food trucks provide some unique options to campus dining but at a price that feels unreasonable." His concern is shared with other students on campus, especially those that are outside of the majority of students who have a meal plan. Aubrey Flurer, a continuing education student, speaks on the food trucks saying, "Given the fact that I am a continuing studies student, it is really difficult knowing that I have to pay out of my own pocket to be able to afford getting anything of different varieties."

The food trucks accept Dining Dollars and 'Berg Bucks as payment, and are parked out in Parents Plaza throughout the week. Some have wondered about whether the popularity of the food trucks would increase if they began to accept swipes instead of dining dollars. John Pasquarello, the general manager for Dining Services, responded to this question, saying, "We are currently accepting Dining Dollars as part of the program, and because we have never placed a dollar value on a swipe, it is unlikely using swipes will be part of any retail program offered on campus. This is the current practice at The GQ, Java Joe and the Life Sports Center Cafe and the use of swipes exclusively in the Wood Dining Commons and the Mule Express will likely continue in the future."

Ava Duskic '23 mentioned her personal experiences with the food trucks on campus and how it has allowed her to gain vegetarian options for different meals. "The food trucks offered a lot more variety to Muhlenberg's campus, especially the full vegetarian truck, which is always nice. However, it is definitely a splurge, and it would be much more accessible if we could use swipes, instead of just GQ money, to pay for a meal," Duskic mentioned.

It has been made apparent throughout the semester that there has been immense pressure placed on the Muhlenberg College dining staff. While students have been asking for more options, Dining Services have been struggling with supply shortages and understaffing. The students on campus are very grateful for all of the hard work that has been put into making their dining experience the best that it can be. Providing these food trucks was a way to both relieve the dining staff slightly and provide more variety for students. Peter Stark, the operations manager for Dining Services spoke on this topic, saying, "Some days we have served over 150 customers at the food truck who may have opted to eat in the Wood Dining Commons or General′s Quarters. Students have been very appreciative of the additional choices."

Foertsch elaborated on the food industry in the larger area of the Lehigh Valley, saying, "We spent a lot of time researching and calling food trucks based in the Lehigh Valley. Like the rest of the food service industry, many food trucks are also struggling with staffing and food shortages. Food trucks were selected based on their own availability." The experiences of the dining staff is a common one, especially during the pandemic. The food service industry is severely understaffed all over, not just on college campuses.

Speaking on whether there will be food trucks for the spring semester, Pasquarello said, "We will evaluate the relationship we have with food truck vendors at the beginning of the spring semester to determine if they will continue. If there is a need for additional services we will be looking to provide them in the spring."

"Sisters" premieres

By Danny Milkis
Arts and Culture Editor

On Friday, Nov. 12, the Riley Emmaus Mora (REM) Collective saw the premiere of its first original long-form film project in the Red Door Cafe. The project, titled "Sisters," is a psychological thriller that follows Ellie, a sorority sister, as a date goes horribly wrong, and a string of murders, betrayals and cover-ups ensue. This was also the Collective's first attempt within this genre, and the process was handled with the utmost professionalism, research and care.

New York University senior Sebastian Mora took the creative mantle on this project and co-wrote the script with Marymount Manhattan sophomore Jenny Delorimier. Both artists were previously involved with the Collective's live production of "Sanctorum" in Muhlenberg's Harry C. Trexler Amphitheatre in mid-September, and worked closely with the Collective's many Muhlenberg students to secure the space and draw an audience.

Featured in this project were a number of student actors, including Delorimier, who played the role of Ellie, as well as Katrina Binks '24, Grace Nyberg '23, Chiara Aiello '24 and Evelyn Carlin '24, who played her sorority sisters. The Collective's co-founder, Thomas Riley '22, played Ellie's date, Spencer.

The editing team on this project featured the sound design and cinematography work of Lorenzo Antigua '24 and the film editing expertise of Jonathan Mindiak '24, veterans to the REM Collective's film scene.

Specific audio placement played a sizable role in "Sisters," as Antigua included a delicate balance between cell phone tones and ambient noise. The ambience grew and became increasingly more diminished as Ellie's desperation drove her to commit crimes and blatantly lie to those she cared about. There was also a prominent implementation of swells and even orchestral sounds which created an artistic dichotomy between Ellie's idealized romance and the aftermath of an accidental murder.

Antigua explained, "The biggest advantage was finally having something physical to show for our work. Having something of caliber to show clients and potential partners is a huge step for the group going forward."

This premiere arrived in conjunction with the Collective's new member acceptance, and the event saw a number of new faces who were excited to see Mora and Delorimier's newest creation.

"We're coming up on a year since our founding," said Riley, in an opening address to the audience. "You can expect to see so many more exciting projects from us as early as winter break; we have another short film, 'Pillow Fort,' and then a ton on the assembly line going into next spring."

Jazz Improvisation Ensemble performs

By Keanna Pena
Contributing Writer

From the outside of the Baker Center for the Arts, one wouldn't think anything special was happening on the evening of Nov. 9. However, if one walked through the double doors and entered the Recital Hall, they would hear the excited chatter of audience members as they awaited for the Jazz Improvisation Ensemble to take the stage. For the first time in two years, the ensemble group would perform in person, and the excitement in the air was palpable.

Led by Musical Director Ted Conner, Ph.D., the ensemble group played through six songs that were exciting and complex, with a heavy emphasis on improvisation. When asked about how these songs were chosen, Conner revealed that at the start of the semester, he presented the group with about 40 songs.

They played through the selections in order to decide which one the group liked best and which ones had interesting arrangement ideas. In contrast to other ensembles, the director would usually have a fixed list of songs and that would be what the ensemble played. "Because we're improvising all the time, we may have an affinity for a particular tune where we as an ensemble interact nicely with each other, and we can't predict something like that," said Conner.

The Jazz Improvisation Ensemble is particularly unique in the sense that it is personalized. Every member had their chance to shine through a series of solos during their performance. Throughout the concert, there were two pianists who would take turns playing with the band, and Conner highlighted that, "It was really fun and interesting to see how the vibe of the group changed, depending on which pianist was playing." As a whole, the jazz band is very interactive, with every member playing a crucial role to their overall sound.

Conner commented that it was really great working with these individuals. "I'm not particularly authoritative, as it's really about providing a space for them to learn and listen. Often after rehearsal, we'll go around the room and everyone will say what they liked, something they want to improve on, what really stuck with them. Sometimes they'll talk about what they did, sometimes they'll talk about what someone else did, some aspect of another person's playing that they really liked or was able to latch onto. It's this kind of communal process of learning and creating. Essentially, we're composing together."

PHOTO CREDIT
Photo by Alexandra Rivers '21

Lily Arovas '23, Joe Grisanzio '23, Owen Yingling '21, Marc Szechter '21 (Partially obscured June Tejada '22 and Sam Kaplan '23)

Owen Yingling '22, a vocalist from the ensemble, similarly described the environment as being welcoming and open. He commented that, "Working with this group has always been a thrill. Every single one of the musicians is dedicated to their craft and comes ready to try out new ideas each week. I had never done any improvisational singing before, but rehearsals have such a fun and laid back atmosphere that I never felt overwhelmed while learning this new skill. Before college, I never really considered joining an improv group, but I feel super grateful for the opportunity now. From a creativity standpoint, it's helped me so much as a performer."

Yingling also thought that the concert went really well and that there was a really great energy in the room. The audience definitely seemed to agree, as they danced along in their seats and applauded every solo throughout the show.

Yingling expressed that, "It was so cool to see how much each member of the group has grown from the beginning of the semester."

It was particularly interesting to see how each member would look and listen to each other during the performance. When one of the pianists would repeat a musical phrase, the drummer and bassist would pick up on it and repeat it. When a vocalist would soften, the rest followed, and when the vocalist would increase in pitch and volume, they would too.

As a group, they were able to highlight every member of the ensemble. There was a really strong sense of communication and way of feeding off one another that left the audience in awe of their performance, which ended in a standing ovation.

If anyone is hesitant to join the jazz ensemble, Conner said, "Come on down, it's an incredibly welcome group. It's risky and different from classical music, but it's a safe environment to experiment and try new things."

Artist spotlight on Will Howitt '23

By Danny Milkis
Arts and Culture Editor

A number of Muhlenberg students who have been dealing with the devastating effects of the pandemic look to the visual and performing arts as a way to cope with and understand the unprecedented tragedy and fear. Will Howitt '23 uses his musical and creative talents to share a personal account of the pandemic with the world and has plans to bring his project to the Muhlenberg stage during the spring 2022 semester.

The piece, an original song cycle titled "Squeeze Her Hand," will premiere on Mar. 4-5 in the Baker Center for the Arts recital hall at 9 p.m., and will feature the vocal talents of Howitt, along with Nicole Gardner '22, Joe Grisanzio '23 and Amanda Berkson '23. In addition, the Muhlenberg music department is assisting on the production side, and Howitt's direction on "Squeeze Her Hand" will be assisted by adjunct professor of voice Brian Ming Chu and staff accompanist Vincent Trovato.

"In May of 2020, my grandma passed away," said Howitt. "She had COVID, and it was very much a part of the first wave of COVID that the country experienced. And it was a very traumatizing experience. We couldn't see her. We had to say goodbye to her [on] an iPad. And I was not satisfied with the closure that I received from the funeral and from our civic halls that we did… She was such a big influence on me and a big influence on my artistry."

Howitt's idea is to present four different perspectives on grief that have taken form over the course of the pandemic, which seek to encapsulate the memory of a person that has had a profound impact on these perspectives. Furthermore, in order to create the most accurate depiction of the emotions involved in understanding loss, Howitt recorded a series of interviews with family members, which he explained were "full of raw honesty and emotion."

"It was a very traumatizing experience."

When asked about potential next steps for the project, Howitt had a number of ideas and was interested to share and expand upon this work in thought-provoking ways.

Howitt explained, "I would say that one of the things I'm interested in doing is creating some sort of album out of this. I also orchestrate and produce. So, I would be interested in turning this into a sort of album with all the interviews and the songs kind of mixed in together."

"I am very much looking forward to seeing the final product," said Josh Brog '22, "I've been with Will throughout the process. He's been very much asking [for] all my advice and all our friends' advice, and I've always listened to everything and offered what I could. I think he's a good apple and that this project will really resonate with people."

Additionally, Howitt has been working one-on-one with Andrew Ardizzoia, D.M.A., assistant professor of music and director of composition, on the composition side of the piece, and explained that Ardizzoia has been "an incredible mentor" and someone he is "incredibly grateful to have on the team" for "Squeeze Her Hand."

"I want to say thank you to my family for being able to be so open and vulnerable in these interviews," said Howitt. "They're very emotional and really powerful, and they're going to add a lot to the performance. I want to thank everybody who is already involved, all the singers and Dr. [sic] Ardizzoia… I truly could not have put this together without the constant support of the entire music department."

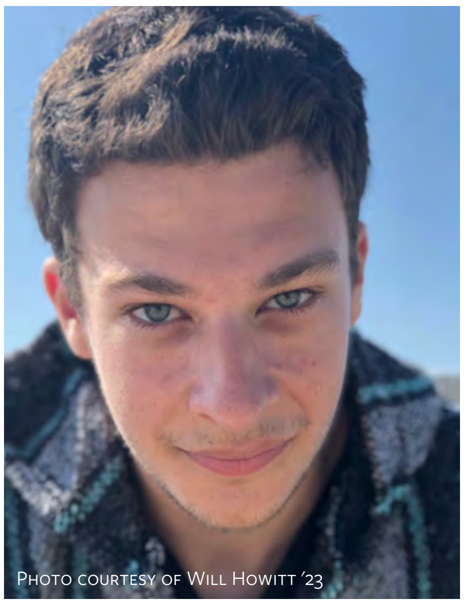


Photo courtesy of Will Howitt '23

Will Howitt '23 wrote a song cycle entitled "Squeeze her Hand" describing his account of the pandemic.

NEWS

From prison to ‘Berg

Released from prison in 2019, Jose Rivera has found a new purpose at ‘Berg and serving the Allentown community

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

As the proud owner of 93 pairs of sneakers, Jose Rivera knew that his 94th was awaiting him behind the register. Nonetheless, as he entered the downtown Allentown apparel store wearing his usual black T-shirt with the words “END GUN VIOLENCE” boldly on the front, Rivera gravitated towards the far end of the floor to investigate the fresh stock of kicks.

“This is my sanctuary, my bodega, my corner store. I come here, it’s part of my culture,” said Rivera as he walked into DTLR Villa at Hamilton and 8th St. in downtown Allentown.

He scanned the sneaker display filled with Jordans and his favorites, Jordan 1s. There were Nike Air Force 1’s and even Timberlands. But one caught his immediate attention—another Jordan brand shoe, this one featuring the new “Hemp” colorway.

After spending the next few minutes poring over practically every pair and walking out without something new to add to his ever-growing collection, Rivera was determined to come back before the day was over.

Leaving his sanctuary, his escape from the outside world, Rivera stepped out in his Jordan high tops adorned with bright green laces to continue fulfilling his renewed purpose in life—one of service to residents in Allentown’s Center City and his goal of returning to school at Muhlenberg College to earn his bachelor’s degree in business administration.

“How do I help? How do I serve?” Those are the questions that run through Rivera’s mind every day when he walks up and down Seventh Street as Promise Neighborhoods’ director of community, transformation, recovery, reentry and health equity.

This is a vital function with Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, whose mission it is, according to the organization’s website, “to create safe, healthy, vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods, where children succeed in school and where adults and families thrive and want to live.”

With 12 homicides and more than 41 shootings in Allentown this year, the city is on track to surpass the level of gun violence in 2019 and 2020. In 2020, according to the Gun Violence Archive, an online database that tracks gun violence from 7,500 law enforcement, media, government and commercial sources, six people died as a result of homicide in Allentown. In 2019, there were 63 shootings, nine of which were fatal.

According to Promise Neighborhoods outreach intern Zaleeae Sierra, who was introduced to Promise Neighborhoods by her grandmother, this unfortunate reality facing Allentown has not changed much since her youth.

“For me, I went to Florida for six years, so I left when I was 10 years old but I came back and have a clear view of what’s changed. I left because of the violence that was here because my uncle passed away from gun violence. [We] came back and we’re still fighting the same fight, it just doesn’t change,” Zaleeae said.

The city’s gun violence rates mirror the bigger nationwide problem. According to statistics from the Gun Violence Archive, there were 991 gun violence deaths among individuals 17 and younger in 2019, a number that increased to 1,375 in 2020 and has only continued to surge with 1,165 deaths and 3,216 youths injured in 2021.

Despite his dedication to extending a “hand up,” not a hand-out, and inspiring change within the neighborhood, Rivera did not always have this community-oriented mindset. From his early years growing up on 193rd and Creston Ave, St. James Park in the Bronx and later moving to Chicago, in an attempt by his mother to escape the gangs that attracted him, Rivera was transplanted to Pennsylvania in the 1980s.

“At eight years old, I was already hustling and bustling the streets from riding the bike down the street and getting 100 dollars a day yelling if there were police coming,” he said.

For a young Rivera, this budding relationship with the gang, the Latin Kings, came with the perks of free Chinese food and a weekly pair of new sneakers.

A grade school teacher predicted his future. In the fifth grade, and already living in Allentown, Rivera recalled the advice of this teacher: “Tell your family to save for bail money and not for college.”

Although he remained a consistent honor roll student up until he decided to drop out in the 12th grade, Rivera lived up to the expectations that were set out for him in the culture of the inner city and eventually found himself incarcerated.

Despite being in and out of prison for a significant portion of his life, he continued to rise in the ranks as a King and, at one point, controlled 250 men across 25 state prisons as a member of the state council.

However, in 2000 Rivera attempted to leave the Latin Kings, but the gang wouldn’t let him.

“On Father’s Day, they found me bloodied up, 27 stab wounds by Central Elementary School. They left me there for dead, my own Latin Kings. Just because I wanted out, because of the rank that I had, the position I held they were scared that I was gonna go tell,” Rivera said.

“It took me a year to learn how to walk again.”

This was not the end of Rivera’s trauma, though. As soon as he could walk again and “could taste the blood” in his mouth, he was shot and once again behind bars.

Released in 2019 after serving his latest stint, a 13-year sentence on drug distribution and trafficking charges. Upon his release, Rivera was unsure of where to turn next. For him, prison was his safe space.

“For the first time ever, I didn’t know where I was going. I came out of prison, I wasn’t home yet.”

With the help of a mentor and professor at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC), Ismael Arcelay, Rivera found his new home. Arcelay, who taught Rivera when he previously attended LCCC, and where he would enroll again under the Second Chance Pell Grant Program, came to pick Rivera up.

“There’s a place for you,” Arcelay told him when he arrived at the prison complex. Then, Arcelay proceeded to walk Rivera into Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley.

There, at the Promise Neighborhoods headquarters on Hamilton Street between 11th and 12th streets, Rivera found a new mission and crew to associate himself with.

“I was there every day for two weeks, during the day but at night I was on Seventh and Turner. Seventh and Turner is home base for me. I walk through this neighborhood, I eat from this neighborhood, I talk to the people because I’m relatable,” Rivera said donning baby blue Jordan 1’s and a pink Nike sweatsuit.

In Rivera’s opinion, though, the sneakers he owns are not just for style. They have a more unique purpose. “I don’t call them sneakers, they’re icebreakers.”

“It gives us something to talk about, we have a conversation now. I don’t have to talk about nothing else. We’ll talk about sneakers [but] every time he sees me now, he’s gonna dap me up, say what’s up, and we’ll go for a little walk in the neighborhood.”

Relatable in both style and life experiences, at 50 years old and still a loyal member of the Latin Kings, Rivera now serves an important role at Promise Neighborhoods.

In addition to this vital job at Promise and his lifelong affiliations with the gang, Rivera is a dedicated third-year student at Muhlenberg. Rivera is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in management. “I might be late to the party but I’m still dancing, I’m here,” Rivera said.

However, while the College has been a valuable resource for him, Rivera doesn’t shy away from calling the school out when he thinks it is wrong. At the same time, he doesn’t back down from people in power.

Rather, Rivera works alongside some of the most influential individuals in the Lehigh Valley. Most recently, he has partnered with J.B. Reilly, the city’s biggest real estate developer. And despite building a close, working relationship with Reilly, to the point where Reilly purchased a laptop to help Rivera keep up with his classes, Rivera has remained vocal about how Reilly’s emphasis on building luxury condos is not helping the plight of lower income residents.

While rolling out his $1 billion development plan, Reilly has not addressed the fact that rents are increasing while inner-city residents continue to live in broken-down housing at inflated rates.

“I give it to him, he worked hard, he started from the bottom up, so I don’t take away his work [but] I just have to take away when don’t see the harm he’s [Reilly] causing. And for me, it is always about the harm. As a developer, you should know the strongest part of your building is the foundation, the strongest part of these buildings is the community because that’s the foundation,” said Rivera.

“You built the emerald city, but we control the yellow brick road.”

Prior to reaching this fulfilling moment in his life, Rivera had to overcome some personal obstacles. After leaving a job at the Samuel Adams Brewery in Breinigsville that was negatively affecting him as he began “falling right back into the same negativity” and “chasing paper,” Rivera returned home to Promise Neighborhoods.

“I left that. I came back to Promise Neighborhoods, I volunteered for a year, and I earned my title,” Rivera said.

Walking Seventh Street and building relationships with community members, Rivera earns his position every day.

Traveling all across “home base,” Rivera’s presence can be felt. Walking the uneven sidewalks and ground littered with bottle caps.

Running into an old friend, fellow community-builder and recovering drug addict, Michelle Collazo steps off her row home stoop to greet Rivera and thank him for all of his help.

“He’s [Rivera] a pillar of our community. From the streets, to the books, to educating, to coming out into the streets and educating us, to doing what’s the best thing for us in our positions,” Collazo said.

“I needed help with my GED, I needed help for college, he gave me all the information I needed so that I can set up the foundation to become the pillar [that] we have to provide.”

Collazo is applying the resources given to her and is “living proof” of that in the work she is now doing for her community.

After sharing her story, and before parting ways, the two had to discuss one more thing- sneakers. Telling Rivera to check out Nike’s new online feature, she teased him about his overflowing closet of sneakers.

“90 pairs of sneakers,” she said. Without hesitation, Rivera responded to correct her. “93,” he said. “94 is waiting for me at the Villa right now.”

And surely, before returning to the Promise Neighborhoods headquarters, Rivera kept his word and purchased his 94th pair- Jordan 1’s featuring a dark blue and white colorway.

Rivera said, “I’m no longer that self-serving person, that it was [all] about me. I just walk and I help. I don’t know what my job is, but I know I’m doing a great job at it. I could have you follow me around, and I’ll show you that I put in work. It’s always about the people, it’s always about the community. We’re nothing without the community.”

An immigrant experience

Growing up as an immigrant in the United States can be an uncomfortable, debasing experience.

By Aia Delgado
Contributing Writer

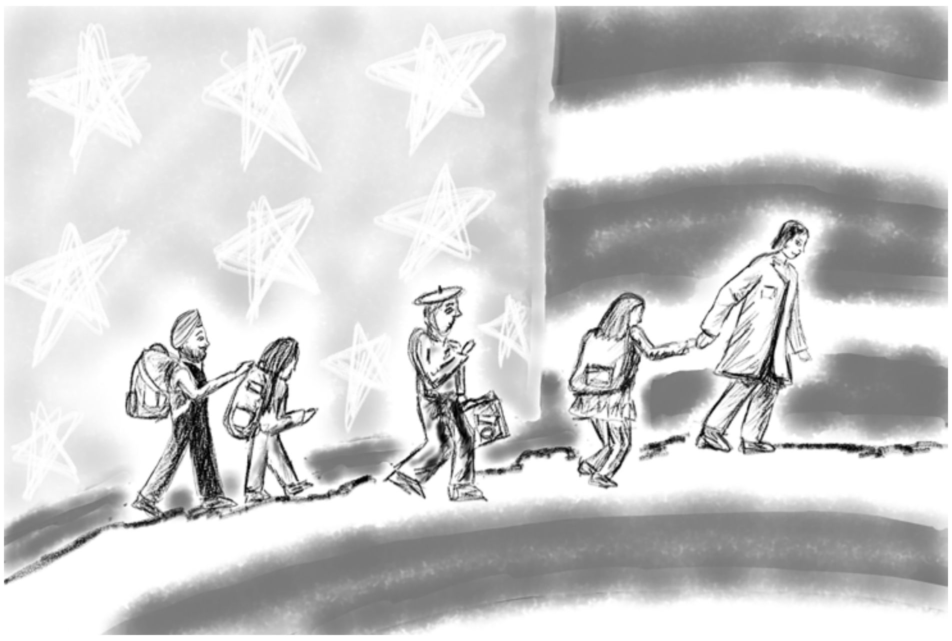


Photo courtsey of Simrin

By the simplest definition, everyone except Native Americans is an immigrant or descended from immigrants, but when most people hear the word 'immigrant' what comes to mind is an outsider to the white-majority norm. The connotation of the word also has a clear distinction between adult and child. Many elementary schools teach solely about the waves of European immigration with only token mentions of other diasporas. Every kid could tell you about the Ellis Island route to the US, but nothing about the numerous land and sea routes taken by non-Europeans.

The modern-day isn't much better. Frequently, the general white masses don't take the time to recognize the frankly huge variety of immigrant populations. I remember rather vividly the uncomfortable number of times I was referred to as 'Mexican,' solely because of my proficiency in Spanish. The demeaning and overgeneralizing of immigrant minorities is an unhealthy and toxic environment to live in. Often, I was isolated and mocked for such ridiculous things, like my name or family traditions.

Traditions and culture are other points of conflict. The United States pushes an aggressive individualist, self-sufficient lifestyle that doesn't gel well with many other cultures' tightly knit family structures and communities. I can only speak from the context of Dominican culture, but the family was and is an important part of the culture, and even within the country itself there is a far more homely and open atmosphere. If you vaguely know someone on the street and talk to them, it's easy to get lost in the conversation with someone you barely know. That doesn't happen in the States. How easy would it be to strike up a conversation with a restaurant owner you only know because he spoke to your dad once two years ago? Here, "success" is the main goal in life and what that means in the United States is very different from what other cultures see.

All of this ties back to the simple fact that the white population of the United States is generally ignorant, both to the history and the current states of the world that don't explicitly affect them, even if it's happening right on their doorstep.

In February of this year, there was a huge protest led by Dominican immigrants on the streets of New York City. The cause of which was the Dominican government canceling that year's election with the reason being "faulty voting machines." This was such a clear and blatant affront to democracy that affected millions of people in a country so close to home and living within US borders, but news coverage of the whole event was spotty at best and nonexistent more aptly. This is only one example of this kind of ignorance the US exhibits regularly. This isn't anything new either; US military and economic involvement have directly caused most, if not all, dictatorships to rise in the Latin American world in the 20th century. The reigns of many of these dictators still impact the countries today, with corrupted democracies usually being the replacement.

What a ridiculous irony. The United States, a country that praises itself as a bastion of democracy and freedom, willing to accept all into its lands, only to be the cause of the people leaving those lands in the first place, and still causing those people societal isolation. Their views of happiness and success are not the views held here. A country so blinded by that egotistical praise that it can't see the atrocities that built it up in the first place.

The United States of America is not a perfect country. Stop acting like it is and work to fix it.

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Contributing Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week's edition of Paige's Page! This week love is in the air, and we are doing another edition on relationships! I am really scared for all of you honestly because you are coming to little ol' single me for relationship advice, but I have a lot to say about these fantastic questions and I am so excited to get into them!

Hi, Paige! Where are the best spots for a first date around campus?

Hey, bestie! This is such a cute question! I have never been on a date at Muhlenberg, however, if I was to this is what I would want to do. I love coffee, so a Java Joe or Jay's Local date is right up my alley. I think that grabbing coffee and going for a walk is so sweet and very fun. Walking around campus a bunch of times or even a trip to the Rose Gardens would be so cute. I also really love the Farmer's Market. A trip down the street to the Amish cheese counter can earn (almost) anyone a place in my heart. I'm dying to explore the Lehigh Valley. Making a list and checking things off together is a great way to try new things and get out of your comfort zone. Have fun and happy dating.

How do I handle things moving slower than I'm used to with a potential relationship?

Hey, bestie! This is so normal. Relationships are really complicated because they require two people to agree on a lot of really complicated things. Many people, especially at this time in our lives, want to be independent and live life on their own terms without having to ask for permission or forgiveness. With that being said, trying to start a relationship is not easy because no one really knows what they want. Clear communication about needs and expectations needs to happen pretty early on in order to not be disappointed or disappoint the person you care about. Slow is a good thing. Protecting your heart is so important to keep yourself safe. However, be vulnerable with them; make them feel wanted and like you enjoy your time around them, but don't make them feel uncomfortable or pressured to be in a relationship with you. Communicating will save both of you from a world of hurt later on.

What do I do if I like a girl but I asked her to go formal with me but only as a friend?

Hi, bestie! Happy formal season! You have really put yourself in a tough spot. I think there are two ways you can approach this. First, is to go as her friend, have the most fun and amazing time and maybe afterward talk about reevaluating your relationship. Clear communication is always important. Your second option is to talk to her before formal, communicate your feelings and see what happens. If she cares about you as your friend, she will likely still want to go with you as a way to spend time with you even if those feelings may not be reciprocated. If you decide that neither of these options suits you, that′s okay. Go as friends, and maybe talk about it when you are ready and feel comfortable. Putting yourself out there is so scary and you are so brave to want to. Personally, I have been really scared to put myself out there like that so just know that you are doing something that takes a lot of courage and that will not go unnoticed. The worst thing that can happen is that feelings aren't reciprocated and you have to move on (refer to Paige's Page second edition question about the ick, I swear, it will help). Don't forget it is your formal, have so much fun!

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the @BergWeekly Instagram Linktree.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

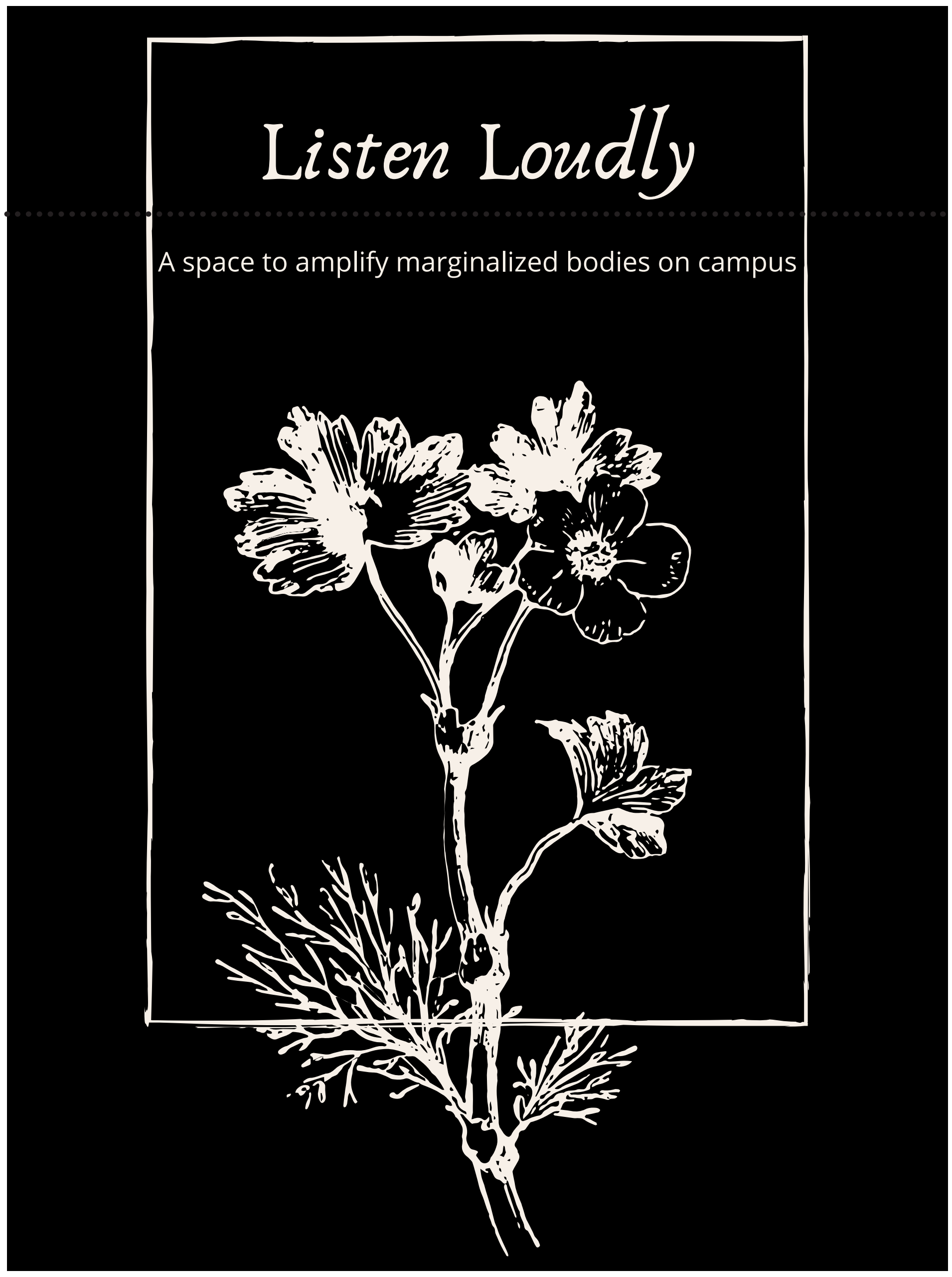
It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.


Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

Equality 7-2521 would agree

By Esther Oko
Contributing Writer

If
we all had the same faces,
had similar hair,
thought similar thoughts,
learned similar things,
had similar goals,
had similar favorite things
And had similar bodies
I wouldn't want to live.
Perhaps this is too radical of a thought
And maybe it wouldn't even be "that bad"
Yet, each day that passes we're inching closer and
closer to conformity with our hard-earned capitals stretched out towards any hand that promises similarity.

Cure for an Existential crisis

By Esther Oko
Contributing Writer

My eyes are to see the orange leaves of autumn
My mind to imagine the charming smile of an unborn child
My hands to experience plucking fresh green leafs from my neighbor's garden
My ears to hear the chirping birds and singing humans
My nose to sustain nostalgia from the smell of forgotten books
My smile to encourage those around me
And, of course, I exist to see the beauty in all, not to criticize the perfection of all that exists.

Haunted

By Isabella Metzger
Contributing Writer

Beautiful, beautiful boy, so sweet in your demeanor
Your crinkled eyes frame your shining smile
Your intentions even cleaner
Your heart is so open
You wear it on your sleeve
How do you do that, beautiful boy?
How do you love so openly, without reprieve?

I wish I could love like you
But I fear my heart is locked away
Behind a heavily guarded fortress
That I so desperately wish would decay.

A ghost built this fortress, so many years ago
And through the years, it's stood tall
Through the floods, through the soot, through the snow.

I've tried to destroy it on my own
My hands are calloused from hammering at its brick
But I've barely made a dent, you see
I'm afraid only the ghost himself can demolish a structure this thick

How do I welcome back a ghost,
I've spent half my life trying to push away?
What if he doesn't come back in peace?
What if he doesn't choose to stay?

I'll wait on my front door step,
With the autumn leaves beneath my feet,
Listening for that haunting rumble,
Of his singular, metallic black fleet.

I have performed every seance,
I have cleansed my house of all its rage.
But I still search for him in the audience
When I'm performing on that stage.

It was once out of fear
But now, I fear, it's out of longing for
Something past, something new, yet nostalgic
Gently knocking at my door.

Dear ghost, bring yourself
And I'll bring my tears,
My pools of relief,
After these six long years.

When I swam in the ocean at daybreak, I looked into his narrow blue eyes.
When I ran my hand across the cool, sturdy Arizona red rock,
I felt his calloused hand once again holding mine.
And when I ventured out under the brilliant desert moon and let the sage-infused desert air fill my lungs with peace,
I heard my ghost calling out to me
And I knew.

How do I welcome back a ghost
After I have ran from him for so long?
After I decided he would be dead to me,
Why do I now want to know his favorite song?

I spoke with my ghost the other day.
His voice sounded different from how i remembered,
Like the violent waves of time crashed and broke through his body,
Leaving him more coarse, yet more withered.

I told my ghost about the Arizona red rock
And the mesmerizing desert moon
I showed him the ocean at daybreak,
But he played me his same old tune.

I expected to hear this, though.
I was more prepared this time than last.
Because this time, it bounced off my fortress walls,
Instead of adding onto them like in the past.
Ghosts can′t see the truth for what it is
They can't even touch what′s real
And as much as they try and hurt and grieve
They don't have the power to describe how they feel.

But my ghost did say something to me before he departed
Back into the abyss of my telephone screen
And those three words, and my repetition of them,
Made one brick of my fortress break off, fall down,
And disintegrate into the lush forest green.

Photo by Isabella Metzger

Let's add some green to Muhlenberg's colors

By Ava Duskic
Contributing Writer

Photo courtsey of Alina Kvaratskhelia/iStock

Eight dollars—a fancy Java Joe drink, three chicken tenders and a small bag of chips; or an hour of a student's time and hard work. Here, that is what eight dollars is worth. Across campus, students yield to eight dollars an hour as payment out of necessity and convenience. Campus work gives students the ability to earn an essential paycheck, allowing for an easier and more time-efficient commute to and from their workplaces than would be achieved with work outside of Muhlenberg. Without a car and a way to pay for transportation, combined with a stacked class schedule and workload, most students are unable to find work beyond our Muhlenberg bubble, forced to accept however much Muhlenberg is willing to give. As a result, eight dollars an hour remains our pay.

While Muhlenberg offers a paycheck 75 cents above the federal and Pennsylvanian minimum wage (not including the tax cuts which results in even less pay), the amount is nowhere near sustainable and profitable enough to keep up with the increase of tuition prices and cost of living, requiring some students to have up to three jobs, on top of schoolwork, in order to maintain their livelihoods. The story gets more complicated when looking at Muhlenberg College's population. Muhlenberg College is largely made up of students coming from New York and New Jersey, two East Coast states with some of the highest minimum wages in the country (15 dollars and 11 dollars, respectively). The discrepancy between our home state and college state pay is both drastic and disheartening, leaving students to have to deal with the large difference and loss of money in their bank accounts as a result of attending Muhlenberg. I acknowledge that part of this issue rests on Pennsylvania's need to raise its minimum wage (please vote!), but with Muhlenberg College being a private institution that has the ability to delegate funds and set its own wage payment, it is important to question why this has not been a priority. If Muhlenberg can get granted a whole new building and predict that they will raise $111 million dollars by 2025, they can also raise the wages.

Conditions seem to be slowly getting better—emphasis on the "slowly." Tour guides only just started getting compensated for their work last spring despite being a major source of revenue for the college by recruiting students with their dedicated speeches supporting the campus. Students, such as myself, have acknowledged that the tours were one of the main reasons Muhlenberg College was high on their list of schools to attend. Orientation leaders are still considered a volunteer position, despite being the first support network for freshmen (and now sophomores) as well as being integral members of the move-in process, carrying large items in the crushing heat and establishing an organizational flow. Emerging leader mentors, who are critical assets to the comfortability and are a major support system for students of color, also don't get paid. Resident advisors still do not get free housing, despite that being the standard for most colleges in the country, and the pay is not enough to cover housing costs, to begin with. Tutors do not get paid for prep work if they only have an individual tutoring session, despite having to spend hours on prep anyway (depending on the number of hours worked, raises are possible). Despite being seen as a progressive liberal arts institution, Muhlenberg College is lacking in giving students the appropriate funds for their work. I am grateful for the ability to have a job and continue my schoolwork, but for being invaluable members of the Muhlenberg community, we are worth more than three chicken tenders and a bag of chips.

El Toledo: A new perspective on organic farming

By Natalie Smith
Contributing Writer

Coffee. It gets you through Monday mornings, afternoon meetings you don't want to go to, nights spent in the library studying for big exams. Maybe you're trying to plan a date with that one friend you haven't seen in months, and coffee is just the drink to catch up over. Or maybe it's the holidays, and you want to brew up a pot for your guests that would match just perfectly with those desserts you prepared. Many of us are avid coffee-drinkers but are unaware of the externalities in each cup, as well as other products we consume daily.

Maybe you walk into the grocery store and keep your eyes peeled for those organic signs, patting yourself on the back on the way out for shopping "sustainably." Although some of us make the effort to buy organic products, in reality, those labels are not all they're cracked up to be. As consumers we are often left in the dark, unaware of the true social and economic impacts of the products we buy.

Perhaps you lie on the other end of the consumer spectrum, and you have no interest in purchasing any organic products. All you see is higher prices, and think to yourself, "I don't really mind if I'm ingesting some chemicals, aren't they in everything these days?" Even if you are not concerned with the negative externalities products may have on you personally, farmers and the environment are much more directly affected than your diet. According to Harvard professor Stantcheva, a negative externality is when an individual's consumption reduces the well-being of others who are not compensated in return. I don't blame these types of consumers. Häger and Little et al. (2021) explain why it's so hard to act sustainably today: "We can get what we want, when we want it, without thinking much about where it comes from, how it is made, by whom, and under what conditions, and where it goes after we are done with it." It is unbelievably hard to be sustainable when so much goes on behind the scenes of the global food network that we cannot see.

Earlier this month, my peers and I studying in Atenas, Costa Rica toured the El Toledo coffee farm. Atenas is a semi-rural town located in the Central Valley of Costa Rica, dominated by coffee farms. El Toledo coffee farm has belonged to the Calderón family since the 1950s, and unlike most farms in the area that use conventional agriculture, has maintained sustainable practices for over 20 years. On our visit, farmer Gabriel Calderón presented us with a new perspective on consumption.

El Toledo went from conventional practices to organic after the owner, Gabriel's father Gerardo, became ill with pesticide poisoning. Most of us who buy organic products do so in an effort to preserve our own health, but rarely do we take the time to consider the human beings in the field interacting daily with dangerous chemicals.

Gabriel explained that we should not trust the market the way it appears. We should be doing more research, seeing if that more expensive product is truly produced in a more sustainable manner. It's wrong to just trust brands based on their organic labeling. Instead, we must hold ourselves accountable and learn more about the production processes of the brands we buy.

As an avid coffee drinker myself, I was unaware of just how wasteful coffee production truly is. In fact, a whopping 100 liters of water is required to make just one cup of coffee. It is initially produced on a tree as a fruit, which is then peeled to get the seed, dehydrated to get the nut and then roasted. The coffee fruit is edible but is thrown away on nearly all coffee farms, wasting 80 percent of what is harvested. After the dehydration process, another 10 percent of the original product is lost, and then another 6 percent after roasting. After brewing, we only end up using 0.2 percent of the original fruit.

At El Toledo, they reuse this waste to create new products. There are many delicious products that can be made from the coffee fruit other than the drink. For instance, the family at El Toledo makes coffee marmalade, flour, wine and tea (and they all taste amazing). Additionally, they do not waste 80 percent of the harvest by throwing away the fruit; now, they use 40 percent of it for these products, and the other 40 percent is composted.

Although El Toledo no longer holds an "organic certification" (2002-2016) due to the demanding cost of maintaining certification, the environmental and socioeconomic practices are much more sustainable than some farms that meet organic standards. El Toledo reduces water use, reduces coffee fruit waste, integrates native shade trees and transfers knowledge on protecting the environment to its visitors. Since water is not a chemical, the amount of water used in production is not a requirement for organic certification. Thus, your organic suppliers could be overconsuming water and cutting down forests for agriculture, but the sticker on your "organic" bunch of bananas isn't going to tell you that.

In today's fast-paced world, we tend to forget the labor behind the scenes of the products we consume. I encourage you to do your part by researching the products you purchase and search for the truth behind the labels. Your morning cup of joe is served to you by farmers and the environment—the least we can do is make sure they're both being treated correctly.

Marti: One in a Mule-ion

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Contributing Writer

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Marti is great friends with the Weekly!

"Go Cardinals!" Was the phrase you would've heard at a Muhlenberg baseball game in the 1920s. Sounds weird. How did the athletic program become represented by the beloved Marti and what is it like being the person in the suit?

Sports Information Director Mike Falk says, "According to legend, our teams were known as the Cardinals in the early part of the century. We actually have a photo of one of our baseball teams from the 1920s where their uniforms have 'cardinals' on them."

As for what drove the change from the Cardinals to the Mules, one could say the first amendment and freedom of the press. Falk explains, "The switch to Mules came from newspaper writers who found the word 'Muhlenberg' too long to fit into headlines. They shortened it to Muhl and eventually, our teams came to be known as the Mules." A fairly incredible story and Falk hit the nail on the head saying, "Can't imagine us being anything else!"

Now Muhlenberg is represented by a person who has the position of the game management assistant or as—you may know them—the mascot. You may know him in day-to-day life as your classmate, friend or peer, but for the sake of protecting the magic and might of the mule, their name will not be disclosed.

Marti disclosed to me that when they came to Muhlenberg, they "wanted to sing the national anthem; that was my main goal. I didn't even know the mascot was an option, so I showed Megan Patruno a video of me singing, and she asked if I wanted to be the mascot, and I was like, 'really,' and they were like 'yeah. Do you know what you're getting yourself into?' And I said 'no, but I'm in it now!'"

Once again, Muhlenberg traditions are determined not by planning, but by thinking of an idea and going for it. This changed Marti from a volunteer job to a permanent position, listed as game management assistant.

After a long hot day in the suit giving players high fives and entertaining the crowd, there's a not so fun but necessary part of the job. "It's a fun job, but not the cleanest," so Marti takes the suit to get washed.

In their two years of experience representing the college at events from field hockey games to fundraisers, there are three rules that they have made for themselves: "No talking," well, unless it's to whisper some words of encouragement into a linebacker's ear. "Don't take the head off in front of the kids," a rule every mascot follows since seeing a decapitated mule may cause trauma similar to seeing mama kissing Santa Claus. Most importantly, "Always stay in constant motion." That's what Marti does, he keeps the crowd entertained. You won't see a single rule broken.

How would Marti describe himself? "Marti is like a curious 8-year-old, but also he can get a little sassy sometimes." You may have even seen Marti moving the line markers and balls at the recent Moravian College game.

Whatever Marti is doing, you can bet on it being entertaining as this mascot's look on life is, "If you make people smile, then people will make you smile." Marti is known for supporting our athletes with high fives and exciting the crowd, but they can't do it alone. One job that often goes unnoticed is the job of the helper. Marti said, "I can't do this alone."

But it is not just the singular helper that makes Marti who they are. Sadly, in a few years, we won't have the same person in the suit, but the image they have created will carry on with the suit's next inhabitant. After all, Marti is shaped by the crowd's vision. Marti is a symbol of the students' pride and the Muhlenberg community. Marti shows up at athletic and academic events, fundraising and student life. Where the Muhlenberg community resides, Marti will be there. The person that wears the suit has to understand this responsibility: when Muhlenberg needs a symbol of community, you can count on Marti to be there!

'Berg hoops open season with win

By Josh Botel
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg women's basketball opened the season with a 67-57 victory over the Cabrini University Cavaliers. The Mules were led by Guard Mikaela McGarvey '22, who finished with 17 points, 12 of those points came from beyond the arc with four 3's.

Both forwards Sara Peretti '23 and Margaux Eripret '22 contributed to the team's win with Peretti scoring 13 points while Eripret dished out 7 points and 8 rebounds. Three first-years and two sophomores had their first career points, Emily Unger '25, Emily Vaughan '25, Jenna Stockfeder '25, Abigail Scheidel '24 and Caroline Horst '24.

McGarvey talked about what it was like to step on the court for the first time since February 2020. "It was really exciting to finally play a competitive game again. For some of us, it had almost been two years since we've played. I think we did a really good job of channeling any nervous energy we had into the game and it worked out well for us. Everyone contributed something to help us win that game."

McGarvey is still getting used to new contributors on the team, however she's excited to play with some new faces. "I've really enjoyed having a big roster with a lot of talented underclassmen. Playing against them in practice is great because they challenge us to be better & I think they're learning a lot which definitely showed in the game. In terms of chemistry, everyone is really supportive of each other in practice and they play with a lot of enthusiasm."

McGarvey's philosophy for what the team did well on both sides of the courts: "Offensively, I think we did a great job of communicating and finding the open players. Defensively, we challenged almost every shot and played with a high level of intensity in our press. Moving forward, I think we need to focus on rebounding better and fouling less."

She also mentioned the overall goals of the season. "As a team, I think our mentality is not just to win, but to win every game by as much as we possibly can. Ultimately, we want to win the Conference Championship and go to the NCAA tournament, and I think we have a great shot at that," said McGarvey.

The Mules have a fire under them this season, especially since they were unable to reach the NCAA playoffs in the 2019-20 season, snapping a 14 year streak of consecutive appearances. "Not making the playoffs my sophomore year definitely still stings, and I think I can speak for all of the upperclassmen in that we are using it as motivation to not just make playoffs but to win the whole thing this time," said McGarvey. "We had our chance at that in the 2019/20 season and I think, especially after COVID, taking that next season away from us we aren't going to take our second chance for granted."

Since McGarvey is entering her final year in the program, her seniority thrusted her into a leadership role. "In terms of being a leader for my younger teammates, I try to share with them what I've learned over the years to help take the pressure off the learning curve after making that jump from the high school to college level. Knowing how disappointing it is to not execute as well as we can is an experience I don't want them to have, so keeping the energy and intensity up at practice and in games is really important to me. I think every senior does a great job of answering questions and supporting the younger players at their respective positions which just makes the team better as a whole."

Head Coach Ron Rohn shared what he believed the team did well as well as what they need to improve on. "I liked our competitiveness. We battled very hard whether things were going well or not. Our defense was very solid for this stage of the season, and even when we were in the wrong spot, we hustled hard to recover and make it work. We rebounded well at both ends. Offensively, we were aggressive and played well as a team, but we can definitely get much more efficient and cash in on the opportunities we create better," he said.

Rohn also noted how the team is gelling despite the influx of new faces. "The team chemistry is very good. We often had brand new players (even our soph[more]s had never played in a college game before) with seniors and they blended nicely. Our young players do a good job of complementing our experienced players, and it bodes well for a successful season ahead. You can see things coming together more and more every day at practice, and that is a compliment to how unselfish this team is, everyone filling their role and trying to make everyone else better."

After not making the playoffs last season, Rohn expressed what needs to happen in order to get back there. "I think we will be a very good team at some point in the season, I just don't know when that will happen. Right now we are a pretty good team, who can compete with anyone in the conference. But being a REALLY good team for Muhlenberg women's basketball, and our history, means being able to win a Conference Championship and playing in the NCAA Tournament. We are not there yet, but we are going to get there."

The Mules opened in Memorial Hall for their home opener Nov. 16 against DeSales University, after a hard fought contest, they were able to squeeze past the Bulldogs 65-61.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules show who dominates the Valley

In the final regular season game, Mules thrash rival Moravian, clinching both C.C. championship and a playoff bid

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics Department

The Muhlenberg football team celebrating their bid to the playoffs.

On a stormy day, Muhlenberg dominated Lehigh Valley rival, the Moravian College Greyhounds, by a score of 55-0. The Mules ended the regular season 9-1, clinching the co-Centennial Conference championship with Johns Hopkins University, and an automatic bid to the DIII NCAA football playoffs.

It was a great way to close out the regular season and the perfect way to celebrate Senior Day for the Mules. “Saturday meant the world to me,” said Rory DeLuca ‘22. “Getting to play football with all of my best friends in front of my family on Senior Day was amazing. I cherish every opportunity I get out on that field with my boys.”

Teammate Michael Feaster ‘22 also had a wide range of emotions: “Senior day was a real wake up call to me. It feels like you have all the time in the world with your best friends until you blink your eyes and it’s over,” he said. “Countless memories were made over the course of four years and Senior Day was an awesome day to celebrate everything we accomplished. The bonds I made with my teammates are something I never will let go of. Knowing it’s the beginning of the end is a tough pill to swallow, but right now we’re ready to make this playoff run and make some more memories together.”

Even though it’s easy to lose focus for their last regular season game, the Mules stayed focused and delivered a statement. “We challenged them to prepare to win no matter the record of our opponent. We had a big install in preparation for this game. The guys had to do a lot of work to understand the scheme and adjustments,” said Defensive Coordinator Kory David. “It was great seeing the game plan work on Saturday because of the focus the defense put into learning some new roles. At the end of the day, the challenge was if you want something, earn it and go take it. Nobody will just hand you something.”

The defense once again took care of business, only allowing 117 yards of offense. Coach David was certainly happy with the strong performance in difficult conditions. “It was some adverse weather condition that we will likely see again during this playoff run. It’s good knowing we can play some good football in some bad weather,” said David. “But we can’t control the weather so all we can do is focus on our next opponent and what we need to do to advance. We will prepare as a staff for whatever might be in front of us (Opponent/Weather/Travel/Food/Etc.) and let our players know what is in front of them so nothing is a surprise.”

The offense also came out strong with the running game coming alive with 293 yards on the ground. DeLuca, who recorded his first career 100-yard game, carried the ball 15 times for 129 yards, leading the team in yards. The Mules will certainly want to bring this performance into the playoffs.

“My biggest takeaway from the game is that we are continuing to progress, and need to keep pushing forward and believing in what we are doing,” said DeLuca.

To make the day even more memorable, Feaster broke the school record for receptions in a season with 81, surpassing the previous mark of 77 held jointly by Nick Lamb ‘17 and Ryan Delaney ‘17: “If I had to pin one emotion, I would probably say grateful. A milestone like this is not feasible without an army of support,” he said. “Having the best quarterback in the country, a savage group of offensive lineman, top-tier coaching staff and teammates that constantly push you towards your goals makes this a lot easier. Seeing years of hard work pay off is a feeling no description can really suffice.”

With the regular season in the books, the Mules will turn their focus to the NCAA playoffs, where the best 32 teams in DIII will battle it out for the chance to play in the Stagg Bowl. The competition will be fierce, but the Mules are more than ready for the grind: “Our focus remains the same every week. We will continue to work hard and focus internally,” said DeLuca.

The majority of the returning players know what it takes to make it far in these playoffs, with their last appearance being in the Final Four in 2019, where they lost to eventual national champions North Central Cardinal.

The team will look to stick to what they have been doing all season: “Our focus for the week was to continue even though it was the last week of the regular season. We wanted to continue to work to get better. We got back to our basic fundamentals in practice,” said David.

The offense and defense will need to continually perform the way they have been all season in order to achieve their goal, the championship game. The margin of error is slim and any play can change the course of the game and in this case, the season: “Our focus right now is Framingham State. Playoffs are a different breed of football and taking it one week at a time is all you can do. A lot of things are out of your control and it is important to just stay grounded,” said Feaster.

If the Mules are able to replicate what they have done this regular season, they will be a dangerous team in this year’s playoffs.

The Mules will open up the playoffs against Framingham State University on Nov. 20 at Scotty Wood Stadium.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Nov. 18 - Nov. 25

Football	Women’s Basketball	Wrestling	Men’s Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Framingham State	Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins	Muhlenberg vs Johnson & Wales	Muhlenberg vs Rutgers-Newark
Saturday, Nov. 20 @ 12:00 p.m. Scotty Wood Stadium	Saturday, Nov. 20 @ 5:00 p.m. Memorial Hall	Saturday, Nov. 20 @ 2:30 p.m. Deitrich Field House	Saturday, Nov. 20 @ 5:00 p.m. Newark, N.J.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Studying abroad
with the Omicron variant

Photo by Sarah Wedeking '24

Muhlenberg Weekly Editors Danny Milkis '23, Ayden Levine '23, Or-El Ankori '25, and Tom Hiller '23 worry about study abroad prospects.

By Matthew Baresh
Staff Writer

Studying abroad next semester in spring 2022 has posed many questions, as the new Omicron COVID-19 variant has heightened travel restrictions around the world. With COVID-19 cases rising internationally, Muhlenberg students and staff are faced with unknowns as they head into the spring semester with both hopes and concerns.

The staff in the Office of Global Education have been hard at work figuring out whether studying abroad is still a viable option while still maintaining the health of students. While the staff is concerned with the safety of all students travelling, they are also hopeful for a successful spring semester abroad, but only time will tell.

"We are in a period of great uncertainty until more information is released about Omicron and the efficacy of the vaccines against it. At the moment, the situation is fluid and we have to remain flexible," said Donna Kish-Goodling, Ph.D., dean of global education. "Studying abroad in the spring depends on what policies our program providers and their national governments formulate in the next few weeks. As of today, the program providers have not made any changes. I cannot predict what or when changes will be announced."

The fate of next semester's study abroad programs depends on what government restrictions and impacts that the new variant will have on those with the vaccine. Multiple students have expressed concerns with how their spring abroad will go.

With the rising COVID-19 cases, these programs have faced issues with the many unknown factors of the virus and new variants. Without enough information, it seems difficult to have a clear-cut decision on whether or not students will have this special opportunity. After all, the safety of the students comes first.

Besides the obvious threat of contracting COVID-19 whilst abroad, students are mostly concerned with their programs being cancelled entirely. With so many uncertainties surrounding the situation, there are few answers to these vital questions.

Elizabeth Katchen '23 gave her thoughts on the matter stating, "I'm definitely worried they are gonna [sic] cancel on us last minute. Not only because I've been looking forward to going abroad since high school but also because I've given so much money from deposits to residential permits and plane tickets and I can't really afford to spend that much for it to just be canceled"

With so many opportunities to explore the world around us, it's important to allow students to find new interests and passions through these programs, and with the Omicron putting this in jeopardy, the future is full of unknowns. Yet there still remains optimism for a successful semester abroad.

Take Danny Milkis '23, for example. Milkis said, "My situation with study abroad seems to be unique, as I was planning since last November to study in Ireland during the spring 2022 semester, as part of the media & film program. The past few weeks have proven dire for the country, as well as most of Western Europe in terms of COVID-19 variants."

He continued, "Ultimately, I made the decision to withdraw from my program after conversations with Irish citizens as well as the study abroad offices at Muhlenberg and Dublin City University. While I feel that this decision will leave me without a major part of the Muhlenberg experience, I feel resolute in the fact that I will be keeping myself and others safe this coming spring."

Or there's the case of Isabella Van der Weide '23, who plans to study abroad in South Africa this spring. "Mainly I'm sort of waiting to see how this plays out because I think a lot of the data is still coming in," Van der Weide stated. "So, I'm sort of trying to stay patient and not worry too much before we know enough to make any conclusions but it's hard trying to make good planning decisions with limited information. I feel like that's been the whole story of the pandemic so far."

Opinions on this are mixed among the student body. "As someone who worked in the study abroad office," Alex Whittington '22 recalled, "I remember when the first COVID variant hit and they had people abroad, it was a big time trying to get people back and figuring

See **Omicron** page 4

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Editor-In-Chief
Katherine Dickey
Managing Editor
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Layout Editor
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Alex Blum
Sports Editor
Tom Hiller
Co-Sports Editor
Ayden Levine
Photo Editor
Sara Vigneri
Faculty Advisor
Lynne Septon
Publisher, Images

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

11/15/2021
Tilghman Street: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

11/17/2021
East Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Life Sports Center: Point of information report, individuals spoken to, no further incident.
Brown Hall: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, no further incident.
Prosser Lot: Report of hit and run to vehicle causing minor scratches, investigation to continue.

11/18/2021
The Village: Report of fire alarm from heating unit, system silenced and reset.
Prosser Hall: Report of found phone, owner later claimed item.
CA (South) Lot: Report of vehicle with excessive amount of tickets, vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer, boot later removed.
Prosser Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.

11/19/2021
Back Drive: Report of keys locked in vehicle, Campus Safety Officer was unable to retrieve keys.
Leh Street: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
Trexler Pavilion: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
11/20/2021
Martin Luther Hall: Report of vandalism to vending machine, no suspects at this time.
Liberty & 23rd Street: Report of theft of umbrella, investigation to continue.
Seegers Union: Report of vandalism to soap dispenser and sign ripped off the wall, no suspects at this time.
Prosser Hall: Report of found credit card, owner notified and will pick up, item placed in lost and found locker.
Off Campus Location: Report of disturbance, investigation to continue.
N. 22nd Street: Report of noise complaint, residents identified and spoken to, Disruptive Conduct Report to be issued.

11/21/2021
N. 22nd Street: Report of noise complaint, residents identified and spoken to, Disruptive Conduct Report to be issued.
N. 22nd Street: Report of alcohol violation, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system

SEEGERS
after
dark
up 'til 3?
so are we.
the GQ will be open until 3am
*Sunday, Dec 12
*Monday, Dec 13
*Tuesday, Dec 14
Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS
Muhlenberg College Dining
*The GQ will be open Sunday evening into Monday morning, Monday evening into Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning.

’Berg hires new Title IX Director

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

It was announced by Dean of Students Allison Williams on Nov. 11 that the College would be welcoming a new staff member to its community as Director of Equity and Title IX. The announcement touted Jennifer Storm’s academic credentials stating that “Jennifer holds a BS [Bachelor’s of Science] in rehabilitation education, a master’s degree in organizational management, and completed a certificate in Human Resources Dispute Management and Resolution through Cornell University.”

On Nov. 29, Storm took over the position. Storm’s work in the field spans many positions. She noted that her “entire life has been dedicated to giving [a] voice to the voiceless. So, whether that’s been through victim advocacy, victim-offender dialogue, creating restorative justice practices for those who have been harmed through crime and those who have harmed others through crime. I’ve been doing this work.”

She also stressed her own personal experiences and connections to her new role stating, “Personally, I bring a lot of lived experience into the position, not just as a survivor of sexual violence myself but also as someone in long-term recovery. So, I’ve been on the other side of the juvenile justice system.”

Selecting an equipped and capable replacement proved to be a big task for Williams. She emphasized this saying, “We began our search in August, by recruiting nationally across the country through various higher education venues. We also formed a search committee made up of faculty, staff and a student representative to assist with the full process.” Williams and the committee came to a unanimous consensus that Storm was the strongest candidate and the right fit for the job.

Storm’s role would cover legislation outlined in Title VII, Title IX and Muhlenberg’s specific Equal Opportunity policy. These guidelines “govern our behavior with regard to harassment, discrimination and sexual and gender-based misconduct,” according to Williams. Storm described the differences between Title VII and IX saying “Title VII is going to protect anyone who falls under those legally protected classes [including] your race, your ethnicity, your religion [and] your sex… [Title IX states that] if you receive money from the federal government then you are not allowed… to engage in behavior that would rise to sexual harrasment [or] sexual discrimination.”

Storm will serve as a multifaceted resource for the student body and faculty members. Williams outlined Storm’s responsibilities stating that she will “oversee the implementation of our Equal Opportunity Policy and ensure that it is in compliance with state and federal law and aligns with the most effective practices on college campuses when it comes to creating an environment free of harassment, discrimination and sexual violence.”

Storm expressed that she views herself as a resource for students who have questions or desire training in regards to equity policies. Her office will be a safe environment where individuals can file harassment complaints and understand their legal rights. Storm emphasized that she primarily wants to be seen as an outlet for empowerment among students. “What I hope is that we can be an empowerment source to educate [the students] on [the idea that] they have the right to be on-campus free from harm and harassment and violence.”

An open-door policy will be implemented in Storm’s office as well as in-person and virtual office hours. She envisions her office to be “seen as a very friendly open door to come forth with questions [and] inquiries.”

Williams gave a firm stamp of approval for Storm stating, “Jennifer is going to be an amazing resource related specifically to sexual and gender-based violence, harassment, discrimination, identity-based harm, health relationships, sexual health, policy clarification, etc.”

Storm will be especially connected to Muhlenberg’s Voices of Strength (VOS) organization. VOS’s mission is to promote a safe campus environment in which students are free from sexual violence. Member Emily Orlich ‘24 expressed their opinion on ‘Berg’s recent hire saying, “From what I’ve heard about her I believe that Jennifer Storm will be an amazing Director of Equity and Title IX. She has extensive experience in areas that will make her prepared for the job. I am very confident that she will be great!”

Chrissy Nagrowski ‘22 expressed similar sentiments saying, “I am super excited for Jennifer Storm to be hired for the job! I think she has [done] an amazing amount of advocacy work on behalf of survivors of sexual assault. She has years of experience with restorative justice practices, which is something Muhlenberg really needs right now. It is so important to have a person in this position who is dedicated to doing what is best for the survivor. She can really have a positive impact on the school going forward dealing with Title IX cases. She’s made a real effort to make herself available to VOS and has made a super great first impression.”

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Storm/
@JenniferRStorm on Twitter

Storm takes on the role as the new Director of Title IX on Muhlenberg’s campus.

A unique collection mule-tiplies

Karen Normann has gathered mules for more than thirty years.

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

In the basement of Seegers Union, between the textbooks and sweatshirts sold in the ‘Berg Bookshop, lives a unique collection. Karen Normann has worked in the bookshop for 33 years and has spent much of that time becoming an aficionado in gathering some very Muhlenberg-appropriate keepsakes: mules.

“There are probably between 60 or 70,” Normann reported proudly when she sat down to talk with The Weekly. Whether they’re sitting on chairs, carefully balanced and lovingly arranged on a shelf, propped up on tables or hanging in the window in the form of stained glass, the mules occupy a good portion of Normann’s office.

The now expansive collection of mules essentially started by chance. “Way back when I was in IKEA, I found the first mule, which was a gray mule,” Normann recalled. That’s the one rule with Normann’s mules: they can range from towels, to stuffed animals, to alabaster statues, but they’ve got to be as gray as Marti the Mule himself. Even those that aren’t gray originally will be painted that way – or at least Normann aspires to paint them. As for the first mule, “He′s wooden with his mane coming out and I saw him and I just… bought it. That was just the first one, and it really just went from there.”

Mule-buying quickly became a habit. “Any time I was in a store and I saw a gray mule—had to be gray, of course. But I would pick it up,” Normann stated. “And then when I traveled, I would do the same.”

Mules on Normann’s shelves hail from all over the world. A mule-spotted hand towel comes from Greece, a mule-riding Santa from San Antonio, Texas. Postcards, photos and paintings derive from various destinations. Even the places that the mules are purchased from vary: whether they are from Amazon or a mom and pop antique shop, Normann doesn’t turn any mules down.

She seeks mules on her travels—and others have begun to seek them out for her as well. “Friends would start giving me mules too, as just a little gift,” Normann explained. “The tiniest mule that I have, which is made of glass, was from one of my goddaughters. There is another one from when a student worker had gone overseas and she brought it back from Bosnia. Each one kind of has a story about where it came from. If you pointed at one, I could probably tell you its story.”

As for future mule collecting goals, Normann says she doesn’t have any—she seeks no milestones and says that collecting them “has just been fun.” But if you happen to spot a mule while you’re out shopping, you know where to bring it.

Photo by Ally Duvak ’22

Karen Normann poses with a portion of her mule collection.

SGA members reflect on fall semester

By Ally Duvak & Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editors

Photo courtesy of Ben Eber '23

The SGA is holding elections to fill some spots for next semester.

As the semester draws to a close, The Weekly checked in with the Student Government Association (SGA) to hear their reflections on the past few months and what they are looking forward to in the future. SGA President Zaire Carter '22 stated, "I believe that the visibility of SGA has increased and students know more about who we are. That is such a major accomplishment for SGA. Historically, SGA has been an organization that has been hidden and not very active within the community, nor did it have a tremendous impact on the student experience… I always wanted to make SGA more transparent and more accessible to students. I'm not saying we've fully accomplished it, but I do believe that we are definitely going in that direction."

Other members agreed and commented on their specific contributions. Jason Ivey '23 is campus engagement committee chair and a member of the College Committee on Campus Life (CCCL), which communicated with the Housing and Residence Life staff "on the prospect of faculty involvement in the residence halls/residential curriculum in order to strengthen the bonds between students and staff." The group went over the "right to dissent policy." Ivey outlined the goal of the policy, saying that it "is intended to clarify students' right to demonstrate, protect students who are demonstrating, provide transparency with respect to the College's response should it be necessary and ensure the continued operations of the College. The policy has been worked on by multiple College committees and students over the past few years." He concluded his discussion stating, "This month the committee will be discussing mental health issues on campus and learning more about the ways CCCL can support the College's partnership with the JED Foundation around support for mental health and suicidality on campus."

SGA Representative Noah Berger '24 joined the Curriculum Committee this fall, during which he stated that their focus was mainly on Integrative Learning courses, or ILs. "[The Committee] discussed a variety of different topics. At the beginning of the semester, we discussed new courses that were proposed by faculty members. As the semester progressed, the committee recognized that there was a significant need for an increase in IL courses for the spring semester. While the Curriculum Committee worked to increase the amount of ILs for the spring semester, our work was not done when registration concluded. The Curriculum Committee will continue to work to ensure we have a wide variety of course offerings for students."

Paige Weisburg '23, SGA Representative, "was placed on [the] Academic Policy Committee this year as a student voice for the faculty to get a student perspective as well as to provide SGA with what faculty committees are working on that affects the lives of students." According to Weisburg, while the Curriculum Committee focused on ILs, the Academic Policy Committee focused on "the new objective of Race and Power. It has been really interesting to have a look inside at how the administration runs and give my personal feelings about the way the school handles or wants to go about handling issues that the committee deals with on campus. I have enjoyed hearing perspective[s] from departments I don't typically interact with and it has made me more comfortable interacting with faculty." Race and Power is a new General Academic Requirement that the College is planning to implement in the future.

SGA's Executive Secretary Allison Mintz '23 is on SGA's Executive Board this semester. According to Mintz, the group "meets with President [Kathleen] Harring and Dean [of Students Allison] Williams once a month to catch up and get on the same page about student and faculty initiatives and happenings in the following weeks." She outlined the primary focuses of the committee saying, "Last month, one of our main topics of conversation was the Boundless Campaign and how we could increase student involvement and excitement for the inauguration." Mintz along with several other SGA representatives is also on a faculty-led committee known as the Institutional Research Board (or IRB) led by Assistant Professor of Biology Giancarlo Cuadra, Ph.D.. She stated the board's purpose saying, "Any scholastic research involving human subjects or information collection at the College must go through a thorough institutional review that focuses on fair treatment and informed consent, among other things."

As for the future, Carter said, "There isn't just one thing I am excited about… I think most of all, I want to continue to connect with students, with whatever it is that we do. I look forward to continuing to support students, whether that be by advertising their events, helping them plan events, funding for programming or ideas that they might have that we can take to the administration. Keeping students at the center of our decision making process is crucial to the work that we do within SGA."

Carter is also the first Black student body president that the College has ever had. When asked about the attention garnered from this title, Carter stated, "Luckily for me, I love attention! In terms of the attention that I receive, it is quite humbling. I'm hoping that students who follow me, especially Black and brown students, feel empowered to get involved. That doesn't necessarily mean Student Government, but anywhere around campus. I hope they know that this school is theirs. I also believe it helps students reach out if they have questions about planning events or about issues that are concerning them. The amount of students who have reached out to me personally about things, means that I am doing my job. My title is student body president, which means my first responsibility and obligation to all of the students. In my mind, the more attention and visibility I receive means more students reach out, and the more students that reach out, the more resources I am able to provide to them."

He concluded by highlighting, "On a more personal note, I love this job. It is truly the best job I've ever had. I am constantly reminded by how much of a privilege it is to serve our community. Don't get me wrong, it's a tremendous amount of work, but I love and cherish every second of it. I hope when students look back on my presidency, I hope they are able to see someone who wanted to put them first and truly work for them. I hope they see someone who they can confide in and talk to. Someone who they could vent to, but also rely on them when they needed support. Being the first Black student body president reminds me just how far we've made it, but also just how far we have to go. While it is an honor and it is a privilege to be the first, it should not have taken until 2021 until that happened. Muhlenberg was founded in 1848. But rest assured, we are certainly on the right track. And for that, I am grateful that I am one small piece in the path to progress."

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silenced and reset.
South Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.

11/22/2021
Baker Center for the Arts: Report of found wallet, owner later claimed item.

11/23/2021
Brown Hall: Report of smell of gas, area checked, nothing could be noted at this time.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of vandalism to several dispensers, no suspects at this time.
South Hall: Report of fire safety violation, covered smoke detector, cover removed.
Robertson Hall: Report of fire safety violation, covered smoke detector, cover removed.
Prosser Hall: Point of information report.
Life Sports Center: Report of College policy violation, individual spoken to and left the area, no further incident.
Prosser Hall: Report of found Apple watch, owner later claimed item.

11/24/2021
Chew Street: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset.

11/28/2021
Martin Luther Lot: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.

From **Omicron** page 1

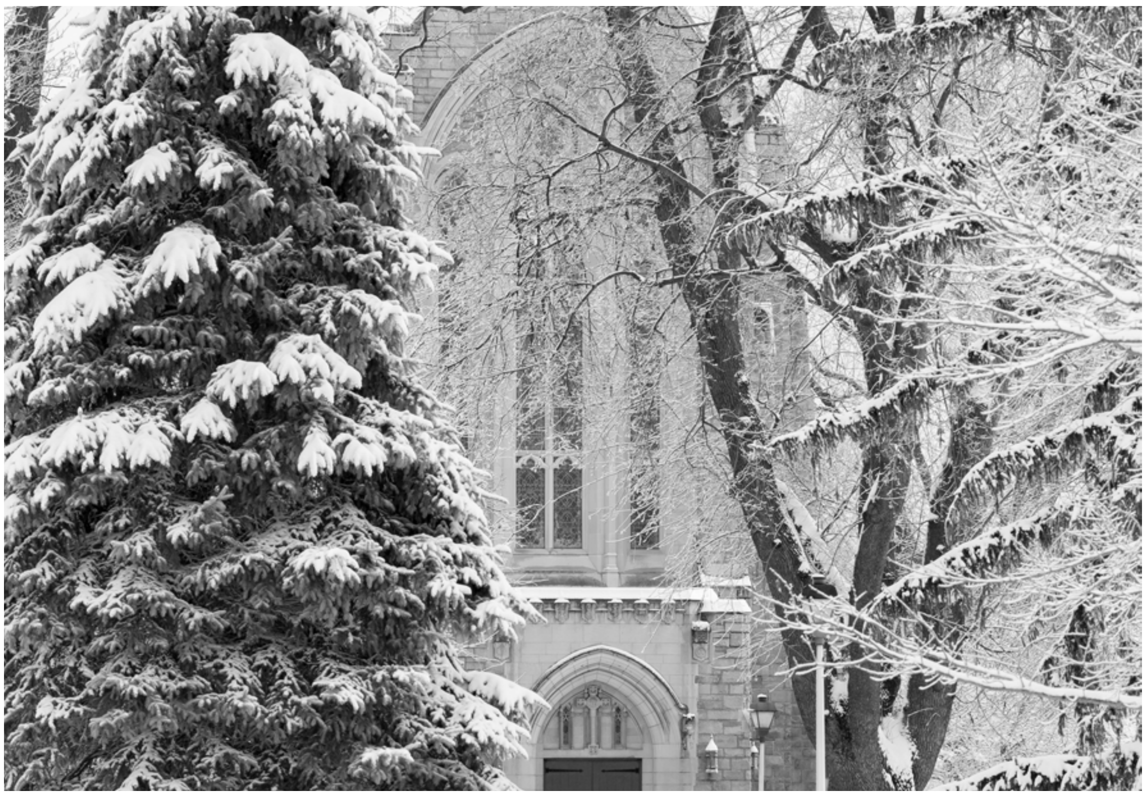
things out. It was very overwhelming. Obviously we know more now but I feel as though [the office doesn't] want to go through that again so maybe we should reconsider."

"I don't think that schools should be making any changes right now," Emma Schwartz '22 expressed. "I think that they should wait for more data to appear before they take any hasty action because that could ruin a lot of people's plans. I understand COVID is so important to consider, but it's also important to consider students' individual needs and how that might impact their lives – whether financially or academically. I think that they should wait until the landscape is clearer before they make any decisions."

"That it's ok to write. That writing doesn't need to be anything but truthful to be of use—it can be torn up, strange, misfit... but the truth will always be instrumental to one crisis or another."

- Erik Ehn"

The exciting road ahead with light and spectacle



By Johnny Veglia
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

The fall semester is coming to an end, however, the Muhlenberg campus is still alive and well this upcoming weekend, with live performances and emotional spectacles. The Muhlenberg theatre department plans to put on the final performance of the season with an exciting collection of plays "The Saint Plays" by Eric Ehn. This riveting production will take place in the Studio Theatre while the Egner Memorial Chapel will welcome back a long-standing Muhlenberg tradition. The Advent Candlelight Carols will return on-campus to mark the continuation of this important performance and to invite first-year and second-year students to experience the performance for the first time in the traditional manner.

"'The Saint Plays' are based on the stories of different Catholic Saints. The playwright Eric Ehn turns the saints′ stories on their heads and presents a radical view on each one. The Muhlenberg theatre department is specifically focusing on six of the stories: 'Wholly Joan′s,' 'Incide,' 'Tree of Hope Keep Firm,' '16670,' 'The Freak' and 'The Song For the End.' We hope that the audience is taken through a spiritual journey as they enter the space," mentioned Savannah Hastings '22.

Hastings is directing the play "16670," which focuses on the pains of the past and how difficult it is for one to reconcile with it. Hastings explained why she selected the piece, declaring, "The writing itself painted a vivid picture in my mind. Eric Ehn handles the subject so carefully and realistically. He exposes the pain of the person who has to tell the story of Maximillian Kolbe."

The talented cast for "16670" features Jake Watzman '22 as Kolbe, who's story is retold from the past in the piece. "Every single person involved has put a ton of passion into the project and I really believe it comes across. There are so many horrifyingly beautiful moments that wouldn't be possible without the amazing cast and crew that we've got," Watzman stated.

The characters in each play are portrayed by various actors from the Muhlenberg community, with select actors portraying more than one role, but each play has a unique cast. The whole company does come together for the ending performance, however, to perform "The Song For the End."

"When running our rehearsals we did it as if we were running our own performances. We each have our own stage managers and company," Hastings declared.

Lauren Koranda '23, the production stage manager (PSM) for the entire group of plays, mentioned, "Being a part of The Saint Plays as PSM has given me the chance to sit at the convergence of five different pieces, most of which are student-directed, and participate in conversations to find where they overlap in both a dramaturgical and technical way."

″It feels like you′ve wandered into the mystic vision of a prophet or seer.″

The piece is one of the five emotional plays, as mentioned above, which are directed by a variety of students and James Peck, Ph.D., the chair of the theatre department.

"Seeing one play after the other is very powerful. It feels like you've wandered into the mystic vision of a prophet or seer. It's weird and beautiful and moving in an oblique way that's hard to pin down but nevertheless palpable. Taken as a whole experience, the production invites a sort of meditative response that I think many audience members will find to be a source of succor and respite in these hard times," Peck stated.

The powerful piece that ends the collection of plays is titled "The Song for The End," and was composed by Zach Montenegro '23.

"I′m so proud of this show. Being in New York during the rehearsal period was tough, but the creative team had such specific visions for their art that they made composing the music a breeze," mentioned Montenegro.

The Candlelight Carols is another powerful and musical piece hosted in the Egner Memorial Chapel this weekend which combines various choirs from across campus in collaboration with the music department. The piece celebrates the Advent season with traditional aspects of scripture amongst performances from the various choirs, such as the Women's Ensemble.

Rev. Janelle Neubauer, the College's chaplain stated, "Candlelight Carols is about togetherness. That togetherness of course means gathering for each of the services as a congregation, but also points to working alongside so many others at the College to bring this meaningful service to life."

Kailani Reis '24, a performer for the Women's Ensemble, mentioned the excitement of the piece and the return of Candlelight Carols back on campus. "I am excited because I have never done an in-person Candlelight Carols. We did an online version last year but it was all pre-recorded singing that was spliced together and it′s very fulfilling and emotional to sing as a whole group again," Reis stated.

"Choral Directors Dr. Chris Jackson and Dr. Néviton Barros have been so important to this process. While the service itself follows a similar outline each year, our choral directors are responsible for shaping the service with songs and lyrics that bring new and deeper meanings to the texts we share," Neubauer declared.

Katie Harris '24 described her experiences with the rehearsal process in preparation for the concert and praised the work of Jackson, Ph.D., as they work to bring the musical pieces to life. Harris stated, "I sing in both Chamber Choir and Women′s Ensemble and so far I have found the rehearsal process to be pretty manageable. I've done holiday concerts in the past where the music directors don't always consider the needs of their choirs and push them too hard, and Dr. Jackson is really careful not to do that. The rehearsals haven't been too long or strenuous so far and they've been a lot of fun."

"I'm so excited to witness the entire chapel filled with the candlelight and the beautiful acoustics from all three of the Muhlenberg choirs," mentioned Isabelle Peters '24, a Women's Ensemble member.

The performances will hopefully impact audience members across Muhlenberg College with vocal performances and theatrical plays. "The Saint Plays" takes place at 8pm on Dec. 2-5, with additional performances at 2pm on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5. The Candlelight Carols will delight audiences on Dec. 4 at 7:30pm and Dec. 5 at 3:30pm and 7:30pm, with the latter performance being live-streamed as well.

Neubauer stated, "For all who are attending and watching, I am hopeful that this service will point to the reminders of times past when unexpected hope has arrived in our midst, bringing new life and reviving our spirits."

"I'm hoping the audience will understand that it is okay to struggle with the past. These stories are hard to tell, let alone understand. We just have to take it one moment at a time. We are the storytellers now," Hastings finalized.

Pause, reflect and RESET

By Shinam Hussain
Contributing Editor

The lights dim, the show is about to begin. A reminder of no photography and videography, as well as an emphasis on audience members being masked echoes through the theatre. As the curtain lifts, the crowd begins to settle into their seats and witness a series of reflective, whimsical and meaningful performances.

The RESET: New Dances performances took place the weekend of Nov. 18-20. The show consisted of eight performances, each with a unique story to tell. Each dance piece was choreographed by a talented student of the class of 2022. The RESET: New Dances performances served as a way for the student body to "pause, reflect, and create again," as expressed in the program. The show began with a performance of "What's on the Horizon," choreographed by Emily Leandro '22. This piece was unmasked, as were most of the performances that followed. The dance began with a solemn atmosphere, but as the performance progressed the dance shifted into an upbeat and lighthearted piece. The facial expressions served as a pivotal point in the dance, contributing to the emotions the choreography conveyed. As the performance came to an end, the captivated audience broke out in applause as the dancers took a very well-deserved bow.

"I'll Say It In Seven," choreographed by Danica Schofer '22, followed the first performance, and was the only masked performance of the night. A beautiful piece that consisted of seven dancers, began with two and ended with two. The music was composed by Schofer in collaboration with the dancers. The third performance, the enthralling "Ladylike," choreographed by Arianna Cacioppo '22, served as a mesmerizing number of six dancers. The performance began with no music, and just the sound of heavy breathing, presumably of the dancers, until music faded in as the performance went on. The earnest and entrancing performance incorporated changes in tempo and smeared lipstick, a performance the audience rewarded with a deserving series of applause and cheers.

"There′s a piano and it′s only piano for the music score. Danica, our choreographer, made that music from our storytelling and like the way that I′m speaking… how my voice is going up and down and the range is getting louder… she plays notes that go with the range of my speaking voice and just kind of worked off of that to make music," said Alyssa Miles '25.

The fourth performance, "Living Color: As Told By Us," choreographed by Arianna Tilley '22, was an inspiring and aweing performance. The dance highlighted what it means to be a person of color in America, with spoken testimonies from each of the dancers. The testimonies of each dancer were played as its respective dancer was given the spotlight to perform their solos. The mesmerizing performance was awarded with loud cheers and applause, as well as many audience members delivering a standing ovation for the beautiful dance number.

Photo courtesy of Marco Calderon

Matthew McCray ′24 performs in Living in Color: As Told By Us.

The fifth performance, "Untendered Touch," choreographed by Danielle Barrett '22, consisting of only two dancers, was intimate and raw, one where the distressed facial expressions of the dancers was a vital part of the performance's emotion and integrity. The beautiful number included spoken voice overs about finding comfort, peace and home in another person, serving as an essential role in the performance.

"Rewiring in Process," choreographed by Allison Goldman '22 followed, and expressed shifts in mood from serious to upbeat, to relaxed. As the performance progressed, the shifts were not only seen from the dances and heard in the music, but seen through the dancer's facial expressions as well. The buoyant mood this performance put the audience in followed into the seventh performance. Choreographed by Sarah O'Sullivan '22, "Missed/Match" was a whimsical and comedic performance, at times evoking laughter from the audience. Then, the upbeat atmosphere changed as the last performance began. "Mapping Self (results may vary)" choreographed by Kate McCowan '22, was focused and stern, as well as inclusive of the audience members, as dancers asked audience members to pick a number three different times, and spoke the number into a microphone.

Dani Medvedovski '24, a dancer in the last performance, spoke about what the performance meant to her. Medvedovski discussed the rehearsal process, saying, "We were always kept on our toes. The challenge was definitely well worth it though as I could not have been happier with the end result." She added, "Dancing with my cast made the experience really special for me. We bonded extremely well through all of our late night rehearsals and I'm very lucky that I've formed seven really special friendships as a result."

The dance show, which consisted of eight remarkable performances, concluded with cheers and loud applause. Audience member Juliana Sims '25 expressed her love for the show, stating, "I loved the performance. Each group had expressive messages, stunning costumes and unique choreography."

"My experience in the show was truly memorable," said performer Matt McCray. "I came in thinking it would be one way, and left with a new sense of thinking, dreaming, believing, and conquering. The community based foundation was so vital in the creation of our piece, and I'm forever grateful for that."

Hillel hosts open-mic night

By Keanna Pena
Contributing Writer

On the evening of Nov. 19, students gathered in the Martin Luther Hall Underground to watch performers take the stage for Hillel's Open Mic Night. Hosted by Ayden Levine '23 and Samuel Brown '23, Hillel's social co-chairs, the event was a huge success, with dozens of students coming to watch.

The night started off with a stellar performance by the Chaimonics, Muhlenberg's very own Jewish a cappella group. They sang "Salaam" by Mosh Ben-Ari, "No excuses" by Meghan Trainor and "The Boxer" by Simon and Garfunkel. The group made the audience excited for the following acts: singing performances by students Olivia Tebsherany '23 and Alyssa Kaplan '25, a stand-up comedy skit by Hadas Bromberg Seltzer '24 and Shachar Kessler '22 and a spectacular tap performance by Maya Rabinowitz '24 and Danielle Azuolay '22.

A particular performance by Aidan Weingrad '25 and Bryce Miller '25 was a favorite amongst the crowd. Levine commented, "The best part of the night was when Bryce sang 'House of the Rising Sun' while Aidan played the guitar, and let me tell you, when Bryce started singing those high notes, everyone's jaw dropped. Oh my gosh. We were all speechless."

When asked about what inspired them to host the event, co-host Levine replied, "Sam and I really just wanted to create a space for people to show off their talents and be supported in a low-stakes environment. There are so many talented people on this campus but oftentimes students don't feel comfortable putting themselves out there because of how much pressure there is. We had so many people sign up that aren't involved in anything theater- or singing-related and most of whom I didn't even know could sing, and I'm so glad that Sam and I could give them a space to be vulnerable and show off their skills. I hope our performers felt how proud we were of them." In this regard, it definitely showed through, as, whenever Brown and Levine introduced the next performer, they had huge smiles of excitement on their faces.

Brown added, "I was so happy with Open Mic Night! I think the performers were outstanding and everybody seemed to have a great time. Getting to introduce all the performers was my favorite part of the event!"

Hillel president, Paige Weisburg '23, was also happy with the event. She sang "You Know I'm No Good" by Amy Winehouse, and expressed, "It was so exciting to sing for a community I love so much! Watching a successful event happen makes me so proud!" She added that something that she loved the most about Muhlenberg was that, "The Jewish community and even non-Jewish members of the community love to empower and support their friends. It was so amazing to see everyone come out!"

The night ended with a heartwarming performance by Aevyn Barnett '22, who came up to the microphone and told the audience how, "Every Sunday growing up, at the end of Hebrew school, the whole school would gather in the lobby and sing Hatikvah (the Israeli national anthem) together as a way to end the day as a Jewish community. I haven′t had that experience since I graduated high school, and so I chose to sing that song as a way to bring that sense of community to the audience

See **Hosts** page 7

Photo courtesy of Ira Blum, Director of the Leffell Center for Jewish Life

Olivia Tebsherany ′23 was one of ten acts that performed during the open mic night.

From **Hosts** page 6

members at the event.” First, they sang their own English translation of the song, so that those who didn’t fluently speak Hebrew could understand the lyrics. Then, they asked the audience to stand and join them in singing Hatikvah. Thus, ensued the swell of dozens of voices around the room singing, creating a wonderful sense of community at the event. “I was so happy to see how great the reception was to Hatikvah! Aevyn did such an amazing job and I think that was a great moment for the community,” Brown said.

Levine expressed, “I hope that everyone who attended had as much fun as Sam and I did. It was nice to have that space for the hour to just be together and enjoy the moment. And I think a misconception about Hillel is that it’s only for Jewish people. While, yes it is a space for Jewish students, it is not a space solely for Jewish students. And I think that’s a huge part of my job as Social Chair. A lot of the events that Sam and I plan aren’t inherently Jewish per sé, and I view our programming as the door to open up Hillel to the rest of campus. I really hope that anyone of any religious background or no religious background feels welcome to stop by any Hillel event and see what we’re all about!”

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Red Door Play Festival debuts

By Danny Milkis
Arts & Culture Editor

The Muhlenberg Theatre Association’s (MTA) Red Door Play Festival took place this semester Nov. 19-21. Each performance showcased seven plays and had a running time of two-and-a-half hours, taking place in the Seegers Union Red Door Cafe. Each of the seven plays had a total running time between ten and forty-five minutes. In addition to a talented cast of actors, the MTA created ample opportunities for students to stage manage and partake in the technical side of productions.

Rozie Hoff ‘24 directed “A Tale of Two Spectators” by Peter Manos, in which two characters watch as their spouses have an affair with each other, and end up finding out more about themselves in the process. Brianna Ramberg ‘24 presented “Things People Say” by Charles Mee, a collection of interweaving monologues with themes of gender identity. “On the Act of (Possibly) Getting Engaged,” a 10-minute play by Lottie Segal ‘23 was directed by Lili Daskais ‘23, and follows a rollercoaster of events as a woman’s wedding proposal to her wedding-planner girlfriend flies off the rails, and the two must figure out how to get engaged. Jamen Meistrich ‘24 directed “Post-its (Notes on a Marriage)” by Paul Dooley and Winnie Holzman, an avant-garde piece which follows a lifelong marriage, told solely through the post-it notes left on the refrigerator over the years.

“Directing my first official production in person was very exciting! Because it was a 10-minute play, we really had time to play with it and fine tune a lot of the moments. One challenge was that when my actors took off their masks for tech, it was quite an adjustment. I suddenly had way more notes and my actors were like ‘Wow, I didn’t know your face looked like that when you said that line!’ So that was difficult at first, but having another technical rehearsal was very helpful,” said Daskais.

Some ambitious student directors went on to direct their own original plays, and used RDPF as an outlet to see their works come to life. Taylor Reed ‘23 directed an original play called “Behind Words,” which followed an author in distress over finding the perfect ending to his latest book, and ends up working with the protagonist of the novel to solve the problem. Ally Duvak ‘22 premiered a piece called “Wake,” which followed a couple’s shocking discoveries following the sudden passing of a friend. Lastly, Lauren Silverstein ‘23 directed “A Classic Love Story,” which explores the many ways that people construct and develop interpersonal relationships, especially in ways that transcend common mediatized stereotypes.

Josh Freeman ‘23, a cast member in “Behind Words,” stated, “The Red Door Play Festival was an amazing experience. I loved working with Taylor Reed and the rest of the crew to bring her original play to life. Performing new work is one of my favorite things that Red Doors makes space for.”

Reed, Duvak and Silverstein also held talkback sessions following their performances, where audience members were able to ask questions and listen to the creative processes of these student playwrights.

“I read a portion of the play [“Wake”] in the class that I wrote it for,” said Duvak. “But the Red Door Play Festival was essentially its world premiere. It was a really exciting and invigorating process watching this thing that I had stored in my brain for so long take on a new life onstage.”

Ryan Weintraub ‘25 said, “Acting in the Red Door Play Festival was a great introduction into the performance opportunities of Muhlenberg. Working with peers made the experience both low stakes and fun! The play I was in [“Things People Say”] was unique as it focused on the actors′ identities and gave me the opportunity to grow as a performer and a person.”

Another actor, Evie Carlin ‘24, explained, “I really enjoyed the entire process of the Festival. I think the fact that the production was set in such a small space made me feel so much more intimate with not only my cast mates, but with the audience as well. Also, since the plays were very short, the production process felt very relaxed and quick, but at the same time I felt like I had plenty of time to make a real connection with my character and the story. It truly was a pleasure to participate in live theatre again as well as watch the immense amount of talent my peers have at this school.”

Study abroad didn't change me

By Anonymous

"Abroad changed me!" If you've been at this school long enough to know people who have studied abroad, you've likely heard this several times. I've had friends who lust to return to their semester abroad, calling it the best few months of their lives, saying they're a different person after spending a semester in a faraway country.

By the time it reached October of my semester abroad, I was ready to go home. I wondered to myself how I could possibly spend two more grueling months in the atmosphere I was in? I had never felt that back at Muhlenberg.

This is not a bash on study abroad—in fact, I think it is one of the most incredible opportunities that I am so forever grateful for, and I advise anyone interested in doing it to do it. (Also something to note is that your financial aid applies to your abroad program too—this opened up a world of possibilities for me!) Abroad allowed me to leave the country for the first time and experience cultures different from my own, showing me the beauty in the world in a more expansive way than I had ever experienced prior. I was able to see where I live from a foreign angle, showing me just how grateful I should be for what I have and just how much work we still have to do. I had the most incredible professors and classes, and it was from these academic experiences that I decided I needed to go to grad school because I loved the work I was doing that much. On paper, my study abroad experience was awesome, and a lot of that rang true in real life too.

And yet every day felt like a challenge. Sometimes I would lock myself away in my room and immerse myself in a book just to get away from it all. It was all too much. For me specifically, it came down to the people. As humans, we crave to know each other and to be known, and I felt like I was in an atmosphere where it seemed impossible to do so. A basic need was not being met. And this is no dig to the people I was with—they are all great people, but something about many of these specific people together made for a rather negative atmosphere that I just could not stomach. So, a few weeks in, I had to make the choice to try to embrace all of the good despite the bad that seemed way more in my face, and this extrovert learned to outsource her joy away from people and instead to the amazing things I mentioned earlier.

Studying abroad is amazing. Studying abroad is once-in-a-lifetime. Studying abroad is also really, really hard. And I guess that's why I wrote this—to share how these feelings can coexist. Joy and sadness can live together. Happiness and profound loneliness can also appear in the same hand. And if you study abroad and it isn't the best four months of your life—that is okay! You are not alone. You are not weird or ungrateful or doing something wrong if you are not in a state of pure ecstasy. Even with negative experiences, we grow and learn, and I wouldn't want to change who I am today. I am grateful for the good and also grateful for the growth.

Rewriting my narrative, one page at a time

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

The first time that I had ever heard of meditation, I was 17 years old and sitting in my Tuesday afternoon therapy session when she recommended I enroll in a class to start to sort through my emotions and be more "present" with them. Originally, I scoffed at the idea, automatically characterizing it as some silly trend that would probably die off in a couple of months, a money-making tactic if anything, for so-called "wellness professionals" to profit off of. Plus, I wasn't broken or in need of fixing, and I certainly was not going to buy into the bullshit of it all, so I likely rolled my eyes as I walked into my first meditation class.

When I entered the room, I was surrounded by a group of people, who were all at least 20 years older than me. Almost immediately I noticed the age gap. I wondered what I could possibly share in common with these people when we were at completely different points in our lives. But as I listened to their stories of serving in the military, strained relationships with their children, and marriage problems, I began to develop a more empathetic and open heart. Maybe I could not relate to them on such a specific level, but we were all just humans going through this crazy little thing called life together and we shared that commonality. I originally did not want to speak up in the group, as my breakup with my first boyfriend clearly lacked importance in the long run compared to their stories, but that's where I could not have been more wrong. Meditation has not only taught me how to be a more effective listener but has shown me that no one's problems or pain are "worse" than another. We all struggle in different ways and heal at our own paces, but it is what you do with that pain that leaves the greatest impact on the life we want to create.

To begin, I must say that meditation is typically a highly emotional experience as it involves noticing your feelings and learning inner truths about yourself and how you process. To feel is an essential part of the human experience, but this practice teaches you to notice any defenses or reactions your body and mind may have to explore your emotions. Meditating gives you the opportunity to slow down and really feel it all because, in reality, the mind will likely not stop wandering. Really leaning in and experiencing them in their entirety allows you to notice the feeling and not be so quick to judge or label it as one thing or another. But also, being okay with and noticing any judgment if it arises can help take the blame off of yourself and allow you to accept, heal, and move on. It involves being gentle with yourself and just letting it be and pass through without the need to fix it right away, because contrary to popular human belief, we don't have to try so hard to remove these feelings of discomfort from our mind, avoid it, and "just get over it."

After a year and a half long hiatus, I

See **Rewriting** page 11

Take a break

Carina Filemyr
Contributing Writer

After maneuvering through my college education via a screen for over a year, I was thrilled to be back on campus this semester. In terms of actual retention, I was barely scraping by. Sleeping through classes, mindlessly scrolling through my phone during lectures, and only superficially learning material to regurgitate for tests—I was struggling to learn virtually. Now that we are back on campus and conditions are pseudo-normal, I still feel myself slipping back into these self-destructive routines. Why do all of my tasks, obligations and meetings feel like insurmountable challenges? How do we facilitate productive conversations in the classroom about unrealistic academic expectations and mental health? How do we encourage professors to care about the holistic person, and not only the student?

I believe it is fair to speak on behalf of most 'Berg students right now: we are tired. We are over-extended. We are emotionally, physically, and academically burnt-out. I have heard of a few professors actively adjusting their classes—and consequent expectations—in order to accommodate students. Rather, they adhere to a rigorous curriculum that was likely formulated during "precedented times" and are not receptive to student feedback. We are valued based on our academic output, and we are only respected in terms of academic achievement. While I do not want to actively discount the efforts of a few empathetic professors, I think it is more important to highlight and call out the actions of most professors. Every single student deserves respect and consideration, no matter their academic status or grades. Please hear us when we say we are tired, but we are trying. We hope that you are trying to hear us, too.

I would also like to take this opportunity to talk about the uniquely Muhlenberg "culture" of over-committing to the point of burnout. I believe that the mental health of our students and the implicit expectation to be incredibly involved are intimately connected. It is difficult enough to manage academic obligations, but add on-campus jobs, extracurriculars, career experience, a social life—the expectations we are expected to expertly juggle start to seem completely overwhelming, maybe even impossible. Muhlenberg advertises this over exertion as its particular "charm." These students love their school so much that they choose to be involved in anything their schedule permits, boasts the Admissions Office.

This semester, in particular, is the perfect storm: an amalgamation of social stressors, pandemic fatigue and a student body passionate about social justice—the levee breaks. The lack of empathy on the professors' parts and the collectively burnt-out student body demands an in-depth discussion about mental health on campus. The Restore and Reconnect Day—while motivated by good intentions—felt performative. It was a poor attempt by the administration to "fix" the mental health crises crippling our campus community, like a band-aid on a bullet wound. In an effort to ease the stresses of the semester, we were given a "day off"—but that inherently suggests that the reason for poor mental health is the classes themselves. Instead of receiving free t-shirts and hot chocolate, why couldn't those funds have been funneled towards a more productive cause? Maybe an additional therapist in the Counseling Center or a campus-wide, interdisciplinary conversation about mental health would have been more effective in the long-term.

Why was there a single day dedicated to "restoring" and "reconnecting," suggesting that such practices are special enough to be dedicated an entire day? Why don't we actively integrate resting, restoring and reconnecting as an integral part of our busy Muhlenberg routines? I believe that we, as both a community of students and of educators, need to seriously reevaluate the relationship that we have with rest, by saying no, with intentionally setting aside time to ourselves.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Staff Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome back to this week's edition of Paige's Page, and the final edition of the semester! But, don't worry everyone. I will be back and better than ever in the spring! This week, we are discussing friends and how to deal with people you don't want to be friends with. This topic is a really popular one on campus right now. I think that a full return to campus made the campus feel smaller instead of bigger, but we are learning how to deal with this! PLEASE don't forget about me over your winter break and continue to submit questions! Let's get started!

Hi Paige, Muhlenberg is so tiny and it is really hard to avoid people that you may not want to see. I have a lot of friends in common with a person who I am not on good terms with and I don't want this situation to affect my other relationships. What do I do?

Hey, bestie. Muhlenberg is so small and it is basically impossible to avoid seeing anyone ever (especially in the dining hall, that place is basically a meet and greet with everyone you don't want to see every single day)! Ultimately, it's not fun but you have to get used to seeing their face around because unless they're leaving, it's not going away anytime soon. I think the easiest way to cope with this however, is to pretend they aren't there. Some may say that's rude, but I think they're wrong. Do what you have to do for you. Some people just can't be friends or even civil and that's okay! I know there are people around that may not want to see me, I don't want to see them and in some kind of non-communicative yet intuitive way, we don't associate with each other. Know your boundaries, if you don't even want to wave to this person, don't. When it comes to your friends, you and all of them may have to learn how to compartmentalize your relationships. Obviously this could start off a bit awkward, but if you care about the relationship and they do too, they will do what they can to make it work. Go to each other's suites or dorms; if one of you has a car, get coffee off campus; try to do things with them where this person will not be around. The hardest part of this is to know that they are still friends with the person you don't like and while it's much easier said than done, you have to not take that personally. It can be so hard but you can do it!

I'm in a friend group with someone who is not a good person for me to be friends with but I don't know how to stop seeing them when they are in the group. HELP!

Hi, bestie. I'm really sorry you're in this situation. I think the only way to go about this is by figuring out how to have a conversation with them because you are likely on the same page about where you stand in your relationship. You don't have to be best friends with everyone in your friend group. If you are existing as a whole group, they will be there but you don't have to pretend that you want to spend all of your time with them. That is what your other friends are for! If you can still coexist, that's great but don't compromise yourself and your relationships with your other friends because you don't want to be around this person at all. Like I said before, not everyone is going to be friends with everyone, and that is something that I have had to grapple with for a long time. Keep your friends close to you and don't let one person that you have differences with end all of your—what I can only assume—really amazing and loving friendships.

Hey, Paige, I feel like everyone is having a hard time on campus right now! However, I feel like I'm not allowed to be struggling because my needs are not seen as important as those around me. What is your advice for living with this and taking care of myself?

Hi, bestie! This time of the year is always really tough because we are all stressed with finals, it's getting darker earlier, and we have been on campus—trapped in the Muhlenbubble—for a really long time. While I'm sure you love your friends, it can sometimes be really hard to keep it together when they are the ones that are making you feel anxious or frustrated. I would like to emphasize something that you definitely need to hear right now: YOUR NEEDS AND FEELINGS MATTER! Arguably, they matter the most because the only person who can truly take care of them is you. It is really great that you can be a good support system to your friends because in times like this that is really what everyone needs, but you need to find that person for you and I'm really sorry you are struggling with that. I personally have been dealing with this by having regular biweekly sessions at the counselling center because having a person to validate my feelings and needs to me has been really really really helpful this semester. I also struggle to take care of myself when I am in this headspace, and so it is super hard for me to give you advice on how to do that. I love to shop so I have been doing some retail therapy so that I can experience the thrill of an email from the Muhlenberg mailroom. If you like to sing, grab a practice room in the CA. If you like to sit in silence alone—do that. Ask your roommate to leave for a bit, I'm sure they get it too. Take care of yourself, eat, sleep, relax, it's almost over!

Listen Loudly
A space to amplify marginalized bodies on campus

Ouch!! Some Rambles

By Sydney Baron
Staff Writer

My neck always hurts these days
So does my heart
It's like every day I'm reckoning with what humanity is left out there

I'm tired of hanging myself out to dry
I'm tired of fighting battles with my mind

Learning stillness in the grey

I've never been good at leaning into life's inconsistencies
Existing in the space in between,
Living with duality
Is something scary.
Foreign to me.

I want to accept that right and wrong are not real things.
I see now more clearly than ever that poles are fabricated,
Meant to harbor the illusion of control.

How do you exist in a world of right and wrong without allowing them to bear some sort of truth?
It's not just "right vs wrong" either
It's boy or girl
Black or white
Sunny or cloudy

If we don't free ourselves I fear that the collective may forfeit the beauty of the sun-seared clouds altogether.

you are (not) who you convinced me you were

By Des Suarez
Contributing Writer

your touch sends shockwaves like never before
i wanted you to need me in the way i needed you
you were a beautiful disaster

the sting of your kiss that cracked through my walls
to be apart, was something i never wanted to do
your touch sent shockwaves (like never before)

you showed me bits and pieces, and then dropped your shawl
beneath the facade (of us) you, i found something i wish i never knew
you (we) were a beautiful disaster

strong, possessive, quarrelsome with a vision of tunnels meant for true (Love)-
lies. lie after lie and (i knew i shouldn't have) i stayed through it all
your touch. sending shockwaves. never before.

the sparks once felt faded to tremors in the rifts between us (i tried to call
out to you) i was the only one worried to lose
you. were we not beautiful? but, a disaster of

warmth. warmth in the air (between us)
It takes up the shape of an elephant, and it burns like gin
your touch sends shockwaves like never before.
you were (beautiful) my disaster

Men's b-ball team look to end recent skid

With a 2-4 start, the Mules look to get on track against C.C. opponents

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

MUHLENBERG
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Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Guard Jayson Williams-Johnson '25 crossing up his opponent on the way to the basket.

After winning their first two games, the men's basketball team has lost four of their last games and are coming up against two of the top teams in the Centennial Conference. One is Johns Hopkins University, who sits at the top, and Ursinus College, who are 3rd in the standings. Coming off a tough 4-point loss to the Swarthmore College Garnet, the team looks to find their identity and play fundamental basketball.

"Our focus during practices has been on competing and figuring out how quickly we can 'Do The Next Right Thing,'" said Head Coach Kevin Hopkins. "If we make a mistake, which we know is going to happen, instead of focusing on the mistake we want to see how quickly we can refocus on the present moment so that we can 'Do The Next Right Thing.'"

While the team may have gotten off to a slow start, this is their first time playing games since 2020, with last season cancelled because of the COVID pandemic. The team has ample time to improve and fix what they need to. "Coming off a loss to Swarthmore, where a game like that comes down to one or two possessions, we have been focusing on trying to create more possessions for ourselves and just tightening down on defensive rotations to eliminate some easy shots teams have been getting off against us," said center Dallas Hoffman '22.

The team is using their time wisely and are focusing in practice on not only how they can improve as individuals, but also as a team. "Our team's biggest strength is the number of guys on our roster that are finding ways to make a positive impact on our program both on and off of the court. There are a number of guys in our program that have had a huge impact on our team this year without playing big minutes on the court during games," said Hopkins.

"Our older guys have done a tremendous job of teaching the younger guys and creating a strong team chemistry and culture this season. This is one of the most connected and hardest working groups that we have had during my time at Muhlenberg and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to coach them and see the growth that they have shown on and off the court not only as individuals but as a team," he said.

"What's exciting about getting the opportunity to play in the Centennial Conference, is that every game means as much as the next," said Hoffman. "On any given day any team competes with any in this conference. So going into this week's games, we really are focusing on playing our basketball, which for us is getting steals or rebounds."

This week will be a big test for the Mules as they are playing the top C.C. teams. Wins here will be huge for the team and will get the season back on track. Coach Hopkins knows the importance this week will have on their season and is making sure the team is ready to go. "Our approach going into games this week versus. Ursinus and Johns Hopkins is the same that it has been all year. We are going to trust that if we stay committed to our process and keep showing up and working on the right things, such as finding ways to make a positive impact on ourselves and other people, then we are going to give ourselves the best chance of being successful."

Hoffman added to his coach's sentiment saying, "We need to focus on pushing the ball in transition. We have plenty of guys on the team that can shoot the ball and cut to the basket and score, so the mindset is really focusing on playing hard and trusting each other to do the right thing."

The Mules know what it takes to be successful and this will be a great opportunity to show how dangerous they can be in the Centennial Conference.

The team fell short of a victory against Ursinus College Nov. 30th 77-71 at Memorial Hall, they will return to host Johns Hopkins on Saturday, Dec. 4.

'Berg soccer wins back-to-back ECAC

Men's soccer clinches second consecutive ECAC title with 3-1 victory

By Noah Brill
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's men's soccer team capped off their season by defending their Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship. Although the Mules were hoping for an NCAA tournament bid this time around, ending their season with a trophy is a victory in and of itself.

Making the feat all the more impressive is that the team had not played since the conclusion of the 2019 season due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. An accomplishment not just for the team, but more importantly the seniors who haven't been on the field since their sophomore year.

The Mules started off the game strong with a goal in the first 11 minutes from Tarin Morris '23, assisted by Taylan Akdag '23 ECAC MVP. Rutgers-Newark answered two minutes later with a penalty kick, but the Mules were not deterred. Chris Richards '23 and Akdag both scored in the 78th minute to clinch the ECAC championship.

With two ECAC chips under the rising seniors' belts, the team has experienced leaders. As they enter the offseason, their legs are sure to be hungry for that elusive playoff berth.

Of course, the end of the season is bittersweet for all senior classes, but that is particularly true in the case of the class of 2022. While they lost out on the opportunity to play during their junior year, the group made the most of their final season and took on the role of 'elder statesmen' despite it being their first time on the pitch together as upperclassmen.

The group's successful season as well as their run in the tournament also seems to have made its mark on the graduating class. "My favorite memory from soccer at Muhlenberg was winning ECAC this year. It was really special to end my career with a win and to defend our title, on a personal note, one that stands out was scoring a goal to win the game in the quarterfinals of ECACs" said Noam Davidov '22.

While the end of the ECACs signifies the end of the seniors' collegiate career, many of them are optimistic about the team as well as the immediate future of the program. "I feel very confident about the state of the team," said Mark Walter '22. "We have a very deep program filled with underclassmen that are motivated and determined to bring Muhlenberg back to the top of the Centennial Conference."

2021 ECAC
CHAMPIONS
DIVISION III MEN'S SOCCER

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The Muhlenberg men's soccer team celebrates their second ECAC win.

The team's success in ECACs was undoubtedly exciting for the members of the 2024 and 2025 classes, as both played their first collegiate soccer season. The group's younger members seem to be looking to use the lessons learned from this season as a springboard for next year. Fortunately, they are in good hands as the class of 2023 has been praised for their leadership abilities by many of their departing teammates.

The leadership capabilities are not limited to the rising senior class, as it has become evident that the group's younger members are also taking the initiative. "Chris Richards ['23] and Tay Akdag ['23] will be great leaders for the program next year. I also think that the younger guys on the team such as Zach Mikuta ['24], Caleb Herring ['24], Evan Schlotterbeck ['25] and Kevin Adams ['25] are crucial pieces to the puzzle and will hold the team to a very high standard," Davidov added.

Berg football moves onto the Elite Eight for the third straight season

Muhlenberg football beats Delaware Valley to advance to the quarterfinals round of the NCAA Division III National Tournament

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

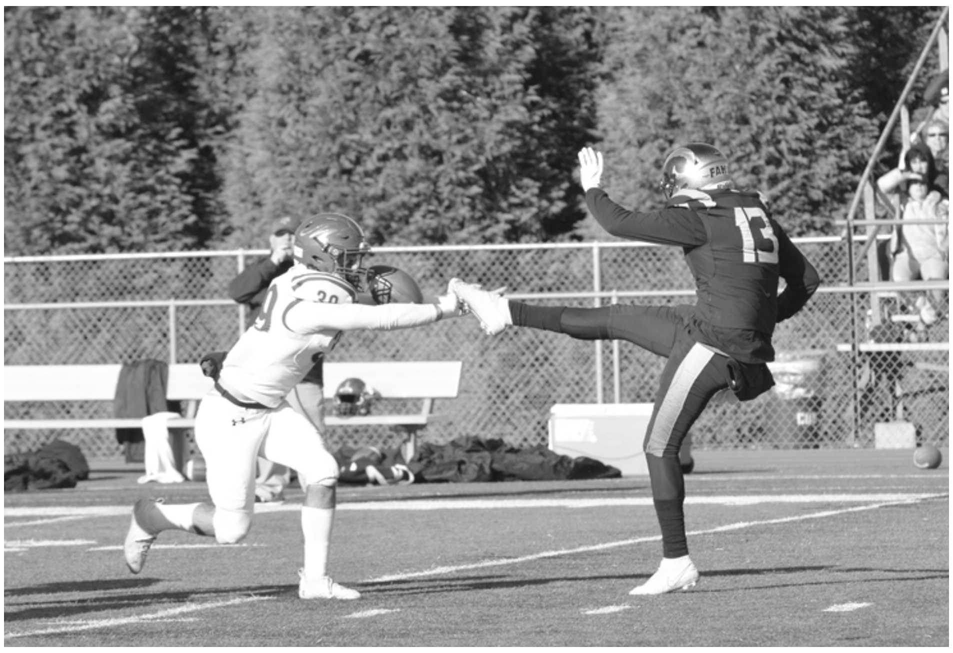

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Linebacker Tyler Ekstrom ‘23 blocks a punt during the game versus Delaware Valley.

This past Saturday, the Muhlenberg football team traveled to Doylestown, PA, Nov. 27 to face off against the Delaware Valley University Aggies. After a defensive battle, the Mules came away with a 14-0 victory in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, sending them to the quarterfinals round of the tournament.

Throughout the first two games of the tournament, the Mules have been led by their shutdown defense, who have pitched back-to-back shutouts. In the first round against Framingham State University, the defense was able to keep the Framingham offense to just 241 total yards and forced four turnovers.

A week later, against Delaware Valley, the defense didn’t miss a beat, halting a strong rushing offense to only 53 rushing yards all game. The unit also forced the Delaware Valley quarterback to go 15 out of 47 on pass attempts, intercepting three of his passes and sacking him nine times.

Kory David, the defensive coordinator for the team, spoke about how the defense will keep their foot on the gas this Saturday saying, “First and foremost, we have gotten here by playing fast and relentless defense. We know offenses are supposed to get yardage, but we can capitalize on mistakes through scheme or aggressive play. How we trained throughout the season will determine how we will continue to battle against [University of] Mount Union. It should be fun, I can’t wait.”

David believes that any defensive player can make a play in important situations. When asking him about who he looks upon in big time moments to make an important stop and the advice he gives them, David named essentially the entire starting defense and then said, “I trust whoever is on the field will step up and make plays. Being a playmaker is our standard. When we need a stop I remind the guys of the situation coming up and talk about adjustments, but the message is simple: do your job and trust your teammates to do theirs.”

Isaiah Lobelo ‘24, who is playing in his first season, spoke about how he believes the defense will continue their dominant streak against Mount Union: “We know Mount Union is a well known team offensively, but that won’t change anything for us. The main focus this week is to keep doing what we’ve been doing, and that’s being a shutout defense. Nothing changes from here on out on our side. We’re going to be playing the same way we have been throughout the entire year. It’s been a dominant strategy for us up until this point so there’s no reason to change it now.”

While the defense has been superb throughout these first two games of the tournament, the offense isn’t far behind, putting up 59 total points these past two weeks. Wide receiver Mitch Daniel ‘22, who recently received All-Centennial Conference honorable mentions, has been leading the Mules’ offensive attack. Daniel, over the first two rounds, tallied up 15 receptions, 203 receiving yards and three touchdown receptions.

Daniel spoke about how he and the rest of the offense have been able to be effective saying, “I think experience has been extremely beneficial to me in this playoff run. Having been a part of our 2019 run, this is not uncharted territory. We firmly believe that games are won at practice and in the film room during the week, and it shows on Saturdays. That being said, practicing hard and watching film is how we plan to keep it rolling.”

While it may have seemed like the Mules struggled offensively this past Saturday, as they put up their lowest point total of the season, Daniel didn’t see it as much of a problem: “I was very happy with the hot start our offense got off to. Delaware Valley had a phenomenal defense, and it was certainly tough to move the ball on them once they figured us out. Our defense was shutting them down, so there was no reason for us to take any chances that would put us in a bad position,” Daniel said.

The Mules travel to Alliance, Ohio for the Elite Eight game to take on Mount Union. Mount Union, who is 12-0 on the season, defeated Johns Hopkins 45-35 last week to set up this quarter finals matchup. The game will take place on Saturday, December 4 at 12 p.m.

From **Rewriting** page 8

decided to return to the practice again this past summer as a treatment for PTSD, working privately with a meditation coach. When I first began meditating again, these negative emotions came quite frequently when I would sit and meditate, and to my original frustration, made me question why I was even doing it at all? Sitting alone in silence with yourself can be the most terrifying, but also the most liberating experience. I really dreaded it for a while because I did not want to face the unpleasant nature of my feelings, but as I began to build consistency with my routine, I realized I was beginning to see the world in a different light.

″Sitting alone in silence with yourself can be the most terrifying, but also the most liberating experience.″

How I am feeling and where I’m at right now are only temporary. This too shall pass and I am more than strong and capable enough to handle whatever may arise.

I realized that I didn’t have to change anything about what I was feeling or who I was, I could just recognize my thoughts and allow them to pass through freely, sort of like clouds in the sky. Meditation isn’t always pleasant, and sometimes feelings of discomfort or negative feelings from the past arise, and that is more than okay. Meditation reaffirmed my inner strength and taught me that while I cannot control the way other people act, that at the end of the day, I will always have my own back and that no one can ever take that away from me.

Shortly after, I quickly learned there were several ways to meditate, and I began to incorporate it into my daily routine- at camp, on walks, even lying in bed at night. Even if I found it seemingly impossible to calm my mind, I could at any point, take a moment to feel how my foot felt against the surface I was standing on and just bring myself back to the present.

When walking to activities, I tried my best to be careful of my pace. I know I won’t really be mindful all of the time, but taking note of these seemingly simple things has drastically improved my quality of life because it allows me to lean into my actions and really gain that awareness of how I am moving and existing throughout the world.

″I know I won’t really be mindful all of the time, but taking note of these seemingly simple things has drastically improved my quality of life.″

As humans, we are so immersed in overloading our schedules in hopes of productivity and success that we often operate in autopilot mode without even realizing it. When I would meditate, I noticed the ways in which I was unintentionally storing trauma in the body, as I noticed my tightened chest and clenched fists. Realizing that I possessed the ability and power to suspend judgment or control about things that no longer served me changed my life, which inspired me to start an Instagram account @mindfullybecs to share my love of this practice with the world and show other people how powerful and badass taking back your power and finding your inner peace can be. After weeks of planning and promoting, I held my first meditation class over Thanksgiving break centered around gratitude, and plan to lead even more in the future!

I don’t need to be saved or fixed, and I never did. I know I won’t always let myself believe these things so easily and that some days, I’ll have to dig beneath the surface and really search for them, but whenever I want, I can always reset, center, and consciously choose to not let these distorted thoughts determine my reality or control me, and that is truly magical. My breath will always be there waiting for me, but most importantly, I will always be there waiting for me. Even amongst my most overwhelming, intense, and ugly thoughts, I am still breathing, connected to my body, and I am still me. I am still in my body and more aware of its movements, sensations, impulses, and reactions, and I will always have that to fall back on when I feel most trapped or disconnected from myself. Regardless of what your life has been like, it has all guided you to this moment, and I am proud of all of us for fighting to get here.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

50 years of Title IX at 'Berg

Genna Cicchetti '22 presents her archival research on the history of Title IX at the College

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Genna Cicchetti '22 participated in a panel with softball coach Ruth Gibbs and Athletic Director Lynn Tubman on Title IX.

In Moyer Hall's Miller Forum on Tuesday, Nov. 16, softball star Genna Cicchetti '22 presented her research in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX at Muhlenberg in front of a room filled with fellow teammates and family.

Initially, Title IX was passed into law in 1972, along with a series of other education reform bills, which prohibited discrimination based on sex in educational institutions that receive federal funding.

"The topic of Title IX is something that not a lot of people think to address unless a situation happens to them directly," said teammate Kaitlyn Buurman '25. "So I think it was important that she shed light on the fact that it's an issue that everyone should be educated on and that it happens to student-athletes around us."

Another one of Cicchetti's teammates, Sarah Karmazyn '22, attended the event. Karmazyn had immense praise for her teammate, "Being able to watch my fellow teammate and friend bring light to such an important part about the history of athletics was amazing. She provided a panel of notable representatives that could provide their own personal experiences while also speaking heavily on the topic."

Standing before the room and next to legendary former softball coach Ruth Gibbs and Athletic Director Lynn Tubman, Cicchetti unveiled the findings of the archival work she had been doing in the depths of the Trexler Memorial Library, which was part of her collaborative internship with the athletic department and 'Berg's political science department.

"The people that she [Cicchetti] brought in to talk on the panel had a very interesting perspective on it, and it gave you more insight into how Title IX really affects people without just hearing stories but by reading them, you actually heard them from real people who went through the changes caused by Title IX things today," said Buurman.

Becoming interested in the facets of Title IX, and as one of Muhlenberg's premier female athletes, Cicchetti was eager to "put together an event that celebrated and shared some of the history of women at Muhlenberg and how hard women continuously have to fight to ensure that they get the same opportunities as men."

Initially advised by Lanethea Mathews-Schultz, Ph.D., department chair and professor of political science, to pursue a line of archival-based research in the library, Cicchetti was introduced to Special Collections & Archives Librarian Susan Falciani Maldonado. At that point, Maldonado provided Cicchetti with boxes of records pertaining to the history of Title IX at the College.

After countless hours of digging through the records, Cicchetti uncovered an abundance of essential information. In addition to internship advisor Mathews-Schultz and Associate Athletic Director Megan Patruno, who helped organize the event, Cicchetti was guided by two fundamental questions: (1) What did Title IX actually do for women? and (2) What did Muhlenberg do for women immediately following the law's passing?

Cicchetti brought to light that Muhlenberg proved to be slow in making equal opportunities available for both sexes on the court and field. In 1973-1974, 'Berg men had 11 collegiate sports while the women had only three extracurricular teams, with practices taking place in Brown Hall. These teams included tennis, basketball and field hockey.

It wasn't until the president of the College, John H. Morey, established the Women's Task Force in 1974 that the College began to embrace the fight for equality. In fact, the 1982-1983 school year, the 25th anniversary of Muhlenberg becoming co-educational, was dubbed the "Year of the Muhlenberg Woman."

Cicchetti also interviewed Connie Kunda, who joined Muhlenberg in 1966 and served as the associate director of athletics during her illustrious 34-year tenure at 'Berg.

Engaging in this type of archival research, along with getting to know Kunda and Gibbs, Cicchetti learned a lot along the way. "Doing research and having such amazing women that allowed me to interview them and participate in my panel was truly a humbling experience for me. I was able to learn so many of the ins and outs of what they had to do to be in their positions," Cicchetti said.

However, she admits that gathering all of the necessary documents was the "trickiest part."

"It was [just] very time consuming, conducting interviews, digging through archives, deciding how I was going to present the information. I realized that by doing this project alone I am truly capable of so much more than I thought I was," she said.

Cicchetti's work culminated with an incredible turnout and a level of support she could not have imagined. In fact, her work proved to be insightful for members of the audience as well. For Jarred Ford '22, a pole vaulter on the men's track and field team, the event was eye-opening.

"It revealed that our institution struggled with anti-discrimination policies prior to Title IX. But, ever since its establishment, they [Muhlenberg College] have been making strides to be more inclusive among women in sports," he said

Given the evident success and impact of her first event, Cicchetti already has plans for future ones.

Her new research focus is on the recent changes to NCAA rules implementing NIL (Name Image Likeness), allowing student-athletes to financially benefit from themselves in a multitude of facets. "My next project is going to be working alongside members from the athletics department to create Name, Image, and Likeness rules for Muhlenberg. Since I am looking to go to law school next year, this component of Sports and Title IX laws has emerged as a passion of mine and I think I am going to pursue it as my career," Cicchetti said.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Dec. 2 - Dec. 9

Women's Basketball	Men's Basketball	Football	Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Salisbury	Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins	Muhlenberg vs Mount Union	Muhlenberg vs Moravian
Saturday, Dec. 4 @ 2:00 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 4 @ 4:00 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 4 @ 12:00 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 8 @ 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall	Alliance, Oh.	Memorial Hall

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The Mutual Aid Project faces changes amidst criticism

read more on 5

ASSEMBLY FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022
VOLUME CXLIII, ISSUE XI
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NEWS

EnACT is back!

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Photo by Ally Duvak '22

ARTS & CULTURE

WMUH features Radio Riff Off winners from fall semester.

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OP/ED

Lily Magoon talks about GQ at 3am.

read more on 8

SPORTS

Despite the pandemic, the mens' wrestling team is prepared for late season push.

read more on 10

the OMICRON VARIANT

what precautions are being taken at 'Berg?

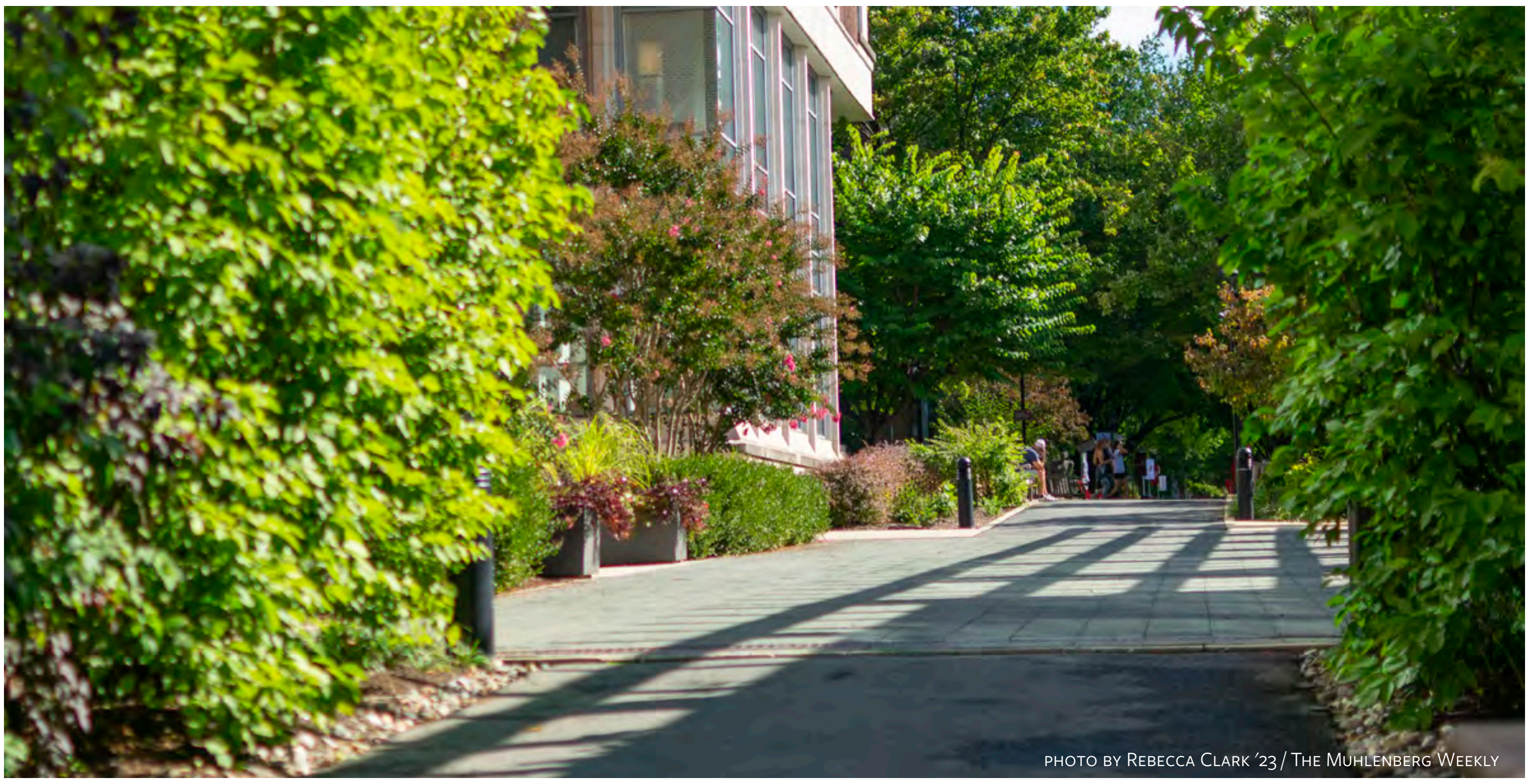
photo by Rebecca Clark '23 / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

The winter break in between semesters is meant to provide students, faculty and staff with much needed rest and relaxation. However, over this past break there was only one thing on the minds of every Muhlenberg community member: the omicron variant. This new, highly transmissible strain of the COVID-19 virus has forced the College's administrators to revise their policies surrounding the pandemic. While not everyone is on board with these changes, the College administration claims that these decisions were made based on reasons and research.

So, what happens if you test positive for COVID? Dean Allison Williams says that when a student contracts the virus they must isolate for 5 days. On day 6, if they are asymptomatic and submit a negative test, they are allowed to leave isolation. However, Williams notes that, "After 10 days, students are automatically able to return without a negative test."

Where this isolation is required to occur has been a point of contention for some. If a student lives within 300 miles of campus, they must return home to isolate after a positive test. Williams outlines the unfortunate reasoning behind this decision stating, "Running out of quarantine/isolation space would be incredibly challenging and would potentially jeopardize our in-person semester for everyone. This is far less ideal than asking individual students who test positive to go home for 6-10 days."

Williams also emphasized the mental toll that on-campus isolation had on students in previous semesters. She explains that, "Some of this recommendation also takes into account the significant mental toll it takes on students to be in isolation housing on campus. Rooms that are empty other than their bedding, no one they know and love checking in on them regularly (even if just from the other side of the door), etc. For all of these reasons, in the fall, about 90% of our students who had to isolate or quarantine chose to go home without being required and much preferred that experience to ones that they had on campus in previous semesters."

However, not everyone agrees with this policy. One anonymous student who tested positive for COVID stated, "I think the 300-mile policy should be revised because I live close to campus but I know people who are under 300 miles and quarantine would cause an issue. I think housing should be available for anyone who tests positive regardless of the miles." Aside from this qualm, they applauded Muhlenberg's protocol noting, "The school handled my positive test very well. They were informative and responded quickly once I had uploaded. My quarantine guidelines were kind of restrictive but it was to keep my family from getting sick."

Others were not as enthusiastic about Muhlenberg's guidelines. Ally Duvak '22 reflected on her experience after receiving a positive pre-arrival test saying, "I did not hear much after my positive test and my return to campus was essentially based on an honor system. There was no check-in, no secondary test and no one that I was told to follow up with. Though I did follow the protocols, I don't know that everyone would. So I think that was risky. But I also think that the new policy wherein students have to test negative in order to return to campus has its risks, given that, especially with Omicron, it seems that people can still test positive for weeks (if not months) after having COVID."

Requirements for professors have been instituted as well. Williams remarked that, "Each professor will accomodate in different ways depending on the type[s] of class[es] (performance, lab, discussion, lecture, etc.) all rely on different ways to keep up with materials. That said, faculty will work with students who are in isolation/quarantine, it just will not always look like a Zoom option because that is not always the best way, depending on the class."

The anonymous student said, "Most of my professors were extremely nice and accommodating. I only had to miss one day... but they all made sure I had the information and work needed."

Alex Caban-Echevarria '23, who also tested positive said, " I have had to miss more classes than I've been to this semester. Getting COVID in the first week has put a hindrance on my academic success, especially at the beginning of the semester. What should be easy readings and assignments have been difficult without the opportunity to discuss in class with my professors and peers. My professors have been understanding of the challenges that doing schoolwork while sick entails, but can only do so much to facilitate the same kind of learning without offering hybrid or virtual accommodations."

See **Omicron** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Katherine Dickey
Editor-In-Chief
Alex Blum
Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor
Or-El Ankori
Layout Editor
Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor
Ally Duvak
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Sports Editor

Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Pena
Editorial Assistant
Alexandra Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

1/04/2022
Robertson Hall: Report of found drug paraphernalia, items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker, investigation to continue.
Front Drive: Report of traffic stop, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident.

01/14/2022
President House: Report of motion sensor alarm, upon arrival individuals spoken to, alarm company notified to respond, no further incident.

01/16/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of found wallet, item later returned to owner.
Liberty & 22nd Street: Report of noise complaint, upon arrival resident spoken to and turned down music, no further incident.

01/17/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of injured student, student refused further treatment or transport.
Chew Street: Report of fire alarm from Co2 detector, Plant Operations notified to replace defective detector.
Brown Hall: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

01/21/2022
Taylor Hall: Report of odor of marijuana, area checked and individuals spoken to, no further incident at this time.
Chew Street: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

01/23/2022
Benfer Hall: Report of alcohol violation, Allentown EMS notified to respond and transported individual to hospital.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

01/25/2022
Front Drive: Report of animal complaint, owner identified and spoken to, investigation to continue.
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

01/27/2022
Off Campus Location: Report of wire fire on telephone pole, Allentown Fire Department notified to respond, no further incident.
Off Campus Location: Re-

Celebrate Valentine's Day on Campus!

Red Door Catering is offering fresh baked desserts from the on-campus bakery as well as upscale, heat & ready dinner entrees. Surprise your sweetheart with something special right here on campus!

Scan the QR Code & order by Feb 9th

RED DOOR CATERING

EnACT club regrows its roots

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

On Jan. 23, Seegers Union was abuzz with a new event: a sustainable clothing swap. Students gathered around tables where clothes were laid out for them to take and trade for old clothing items of their own. That way, students and staff could spruce up their closet for the spring while also refraining from creating clothing waste.

All the while, as people browsed clothes, the eager, friendly members of enACT sat behind tables, ready to chat. For those who don't know: enACT is the sustainability club that has just recently come back from a two year hiatus brought about by the pandemic. "This sustainable clothing swap is our first event!" said Lacey Pasco '23. "We're trying to prevent waste, prevent fast fashion and do it in a stylish way."

After all, these sustainable choices have impacts that stretch beyond the Muhlenberg community. "At enACT, we're all about engaging the Allentown community," said longtime member Kyle Ropski '22. "All of the clothes that are not taken after [the clothing swap] are going to be donated – not to Goodwill or a place that is going to sell them, but rather to something that gives it out to our local community."

Members were more than willing to chat about what has them excited about the club's return and why enACT got started at Muhlenberg in the first place. "All of us felt like there was a hole in the environmental spectrum on campus," stated Maddie Davidson '25. "We are all really into sustainability and there were some parts of sustainability on campus but we felt like there was a missing link. So we got together and decided to create a club that facilitates collaboration between the already established sustainability clubs. enACT acts as an educator and a place for action for people who are passionate."

Harli Strauss-Cohen '24 concurred, stating that one of enACT's primary goals is "providing a safe space for ourselves and our peers, to center around sustainability and just talk about climate change. It's something that weighs on all of us but we don't always have a space to talk about it. So [enACT is] a space for us to talk through our emotions and then harvest that to then create action."

The club is striving for a strong and more secure future as members plan events and hope that a hiatus never hits them again. "We want to build something super firm and have a very strong foundation now," Jessica Rosen '25 emphasized. "And we want to do that while we're young and starting out, so that in the future, enACT doesn't go dormant. It stays strong. We're trying to have our roots very, very deep in the ground for the next generation of presidents, secretaries and members of the club. We do not want it to shut down again."

Rosen went on to say, "We really want to stress the intersectionality of sustainability. So that's why we really want to collaborate with anyone and everyone on campus. We're working to get a poetry workshop with MUSES, we're going to do bottle cap art with the Art Club and we're really going to focus on Earth Day."

To those interested in getting involved in sustainability efforts, members of enACT encouraged following the club on its brand new Instagram page (@enact.berg), reaching out to their email (enactberg@gmail.com) or contacting the College's newly appointed Sustainability Specialist Morgan Tietz '21.

According to club members, there is no better time to join in on enACT's efforts. "We're welcoming to anyone: any age, any group, any club," said Rosen. "And we have a lot of ideas and events in the works."

Photo Courtesy of Ally Duvak

EnACT hosts one of its first events this semester, a clothing swap, in Seegers Union.

Shining a spotlight on Institute for Public Opinion

By Matthew Klinger
Staff Writer

It is no secret that Muhlenberg students are both active and passionate when it comes to politics. However, one college-sponsored program that is not as widely known among students is the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion. When one student was asked her opinion of the Institute, she exclaimed that, "I didn't even know it existed."

Despite not being well-known at the College, the Institute does incredibly important work and is regularly quoted in national and local news outlets. Created in 2002, the Institute uses scientifically-based surveys to measure the public's view on electoral and public policy issues with a focus on the environment and healthcare. While the Institute was created in part to enhance the public profile of the College, it also allows Muhlenberg to be involved in the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley communities by helping state and local organizations with their research needs. The Institute is highly reputable, and the data it gathers is integral to forecasting the outcomes of elections at the local, state and national levels. In the 2020 election, its research was used to help correctly predict the outcome of the presidential and Senate elections.

The Institute is run by its founder, Christopher P. Borick, Ph.D., a professor of political science at Muhlenberg. Over his two decades running the Institute, he has conducted over 300 large-scale public opinion surveys. This election cycle is no different; according to Borick, "Twenty twenty-two will be a big year for the Institute with major elections taking place in Pennsylvania. We will likely do some polling in the May primaries, but most of our efforts will be targeted at the general election this November with a US Senate and governor′s race on the ballot in the state." Borick also encourages Muhlenberg students to vote in this election cycle and make their voices heard, stating "Elected officials respond to the needs and preferences of their constituents that turn out in elections, and are engaged in public affairs. When students don′t vote or participate in politics, their issues may be more easily ignored by policymakers."

In addition to Borick, the Institute also has a number of student managers that help administer the research. There are a number of opportunities for students to be a part of the Institute. Chau Dinh '24 says that her involvement with the Institute has been a positive experience. Dinh became interested after a friend introduced her to Dr. Borick. "As an international student, I was interested in getting to know a different country′s voting system as well as its effects on the population at large. By becoming a part of the Institute, I learned about the difference in responsiveness among counties and made speculations of whether they have an email address or phone number, which determines their development."

There are many opportunities for students wanting to join next year when the Institute moves into the new Parkway Boulevard Building. Over the twenty years of its existence, hundreds of students have played key roles in the Institute′s work. Roles have included survey design, data collection, data analysis and report production and dissemination. For students wanting to know more, the Institute recently created a Twitter account (@muhlenberg_poll) where they post updates about their research and results.

FOUNDED MDCCCLXVII
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The Institute for Public Opinion, despite not being well-known, does important work in our community.

College installs new masking and testing policies

By Matthew Baresh
Assistant News Editor

Twenty twenty-two started off with multiple surprises for students as they returned to 'Berg for their spring semester. With a recent surge in cases on campus, Muhlenberg College introduced a new orange masking level as well as changes to the original COVID-19 testing process. However, students have expressed mixed opinions on this new process, more specifically with the price that comes with getting an on-campus COVID test.

"As someone who was recently a close contact for COVID-19, I thought a PCR test would've been readily available, but unfortunately, I was highly mistaken. I attempted to get tested at the Health Center twice that week, and both times, they did not test me," shared Jack Riccobono '25. "The first time, they said I couldn't get a test because I was asymptomatic, even though I was a verified close contact, and the second time they said I came too late even though it ended at 1… and I got there at 12:45."

Ethan Yazdanyar '25 said, "I feel like the process should be simpler and it shouldn't cost anything. The fact that it does, especially when the total number of cases are rising, seems counterproductive, unless the reason is that they don't want us to get tested."

Before students left for winter break, the yellow masking level was enforced across campus. This included wearing a mask in all indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status, with flexibility given in sports practices and rehearsals. With the new orange masking level, all of the yellow level components remain intact with the addition of required masking in residence halls, rehearsals, and a handful of sports practices.

"The College adopted an orange level in the masking policy to address the nuances that have occurred with the Omicron variant. With the more transmissible variant as the current predominant strain, the College recognized the need to adapt our current masking policy to address the current situation," explained Brynnmarie Dorsey, Executive Director of Health and Counseling Services. "The red masking level, which requires masks at all times for all, was considered to be too restrictive for the current variant. However, the yellow level was not enough as it allows some discretion with masking in classroom settings and no mask requirement in the residence hall. This new orange level is the level that was determined best to be used to decrease risk of transmission of Omicron."

Changes have been made to the process of getting a COVID-19 test, with a new $25 fee and little to no options for a test to be covered by insurance. The accessibility for on-campus testing has stirred many thoughts in the student population with both residents and commuters.

"As a commuter myself, I know that I can get free tests for myself from my primary health provider," said Anam Ali '25. "But the fact that the testing is now $25, it's not going to have an accurate portrayal of the total number of positive cases on campus because people will not want to pay that amount of money [for a test] that is usually free with insurance."

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Many students are struggling to find affordable or free COVID testing outside of the college.

Shachar Kessler '22 shared, "I think that the fact that it is $25 for a test is seriously a turn off for many people. There are many cheaper options for testing, including free testing. The fact that I have to look elsewhere to be tested is frustrating. I am lucky that I have a car on campus so I can drive and access these other forms of testing, but there are many students who can't."

'Berg students living on campus also shared their thoughts on this campus resource and its new price tag.

"I think it's kind of fair that the test is $25 because the original price was $50 but the school is paying a hair of the cost," explained Adonis Brooks '23. "Also there are other ways to get a free test outside of the school." This policy only applies to students who have health insurance, so for many, COVID tests still come at a cost.

Daeshaun Morrison '24 shared a different viewpoint, saying, "I think it is terrible that the school is requiring students $25 to take care of themselves and others. Students are responsible and want to stop the spread but it's difficult with such a price for a test with an accuracy of 70%." The best estimate of PCR accuracy is currently reported as being 77%, and fluctuates as the days post-infection increase. This number is ever-changing, much like all COVID policies and standards seem to be.

From **Omicron** page 1

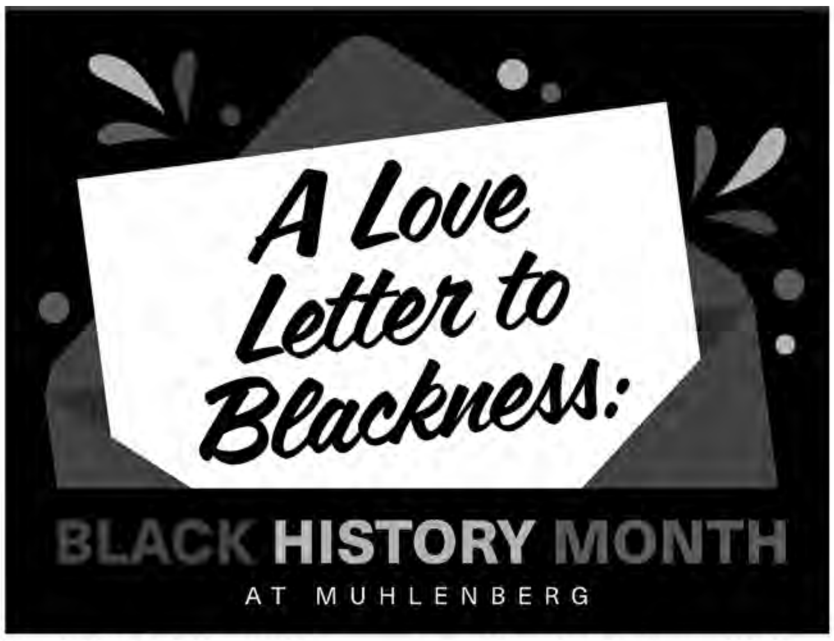
With seven students testing positive after arrival to campus, approximately 300 getting the virus over winter break and 61 on-campus students testing positive since returning, COVID seems to be an unfortunate aspect to the spring semester that the campus community will be forced to cope with. When asked if the College has any plans to shift to virtual learning, Williams said, "Knowing this virus will be with us for the foreseeable future, it is important that we focus on an in-person semester and prioritize academic success, mental health, and student residential community. We also must continue stressing that the most important precautions are vaccination, hand washing, masking and isolating from others as much as possible when you are not feeling well."

Campus Safety Notes Continued

port of theft of catalytic converter from vehicle, no suspects at this time.
Gordon and 23rd Street: Report of a hit and run causing minor damage to side view mirror, no suspects at this time.
On Campus Location: Report of injured employee, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, individual transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

01/29/2022
Chew & 22nd Street: Report to jump start vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully started vehicle.

01/30/2022
Walz Hall: Report of alcohol violation, Allentown Police Department responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Walz/Brown Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
Life Sports Center: Report of alarm from AED box, done accidentally by bumping latch.



"Proud to Be!" Poster Presentation
February 1 - February 28
Light Lounge, Seegers Union
Please stop by all month long to see and reflect upon a collection of quotes from various Black leaders, including those from Muhlenberg's own community.

Love Letters with Lester Mayers
February 3, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
The Great Room, Seegers Union
Please join the Black Students Association (BSA) as they bring poet Lester Mayers to campus for a multi-faceted performance that explores Lester's personal experiences with love—and the varied ways love impacts us all. Following Lester's performance, BSA's faculty advisor, Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies, Emanuela Kucik, will facilitate a discussion between Lester and the audience.
REGISTER [illegible]

***Judas and the Black Messiah* Film Screening**
February 10, 7 - 9:30 p.m.
The Event Space, Seegers Union
Please join BSA for a screening of *Judas and the Black Messiah*. BSA's faculty advisor, Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies, Emanuela Kucik, will open the event with background context on the Black Panther Party that dismantles commonly-held myths about the group and emphasizes the Party's focus on loving and supporting Black populations across the world. Following the screening, Kucik will facilitate a conversation about the film.

Toward Diversity: Black Experiences at Muhlenberg College, 1925 - 2021
February 15
via Zoom
A group of Muhlenberg faculty and students have been diligently looking through archives and conducting interviews to piece together a robust history of the experiences of Black students, faculty, and staff at Muhlenberg: their fight for equity; and the ways that their love for Black communities undergirded that fight. They have created a website that documents their findings, and this event will celebrate the public launch of this website.

Please join the Africana Studies Program as we engage in conversation with the project creators and several Black alumni from the 1970s to debut the website and discuss the experiences of Black communities at Muhlenberg over the past fifty years.

Event Participants and Co-Organizers: *Samantha Brenner '21, Hailey Petrus '23, Anthony Dallon, Susan Falciani Maldonado, Professor Emeritus of Media & Communication Kate Ranieri, Professor Roberta Meek, Professor Emanuela Kucik*

A Love Letter to Blackness Gala
February 20, 3 - 5 p.m.
Event Space, Seegers Union
Please join the Office of Multicultural Life for our annual Gala celebrating our Black community on campus! The event will feature a keynote speech by Hassnan Batts, a variety of musical performances, and poetry and spoken word from our talented student leaders.

"Your ability to adapt to failure, and navigate your way out of it, absolutely 100 percent makes you who you are."
- Viola Davis

Radio Riff Off showcase features winners

Read more on page 7

Photo by Johnny Veglia '24

Mutual Aid Project changes amidst criticism

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

Over the course of the spring semester, the Muhlenberg department of theatre and dance is presenting "Assembly," a project whose purpose is to provide opportunities for performances written and directed by members of the community to be presented onstage. The project contains five total shows, including "Rosy-Crimson," written and directed by Kim Hoeckele, assistant professor of photography, "Firebringer," directed by Kiana Homes '22, "You are Cordially Invited," written and directed by Sarah Levine '22, "A Feeling Of," directed and conceived by Maereg Gebretekle '22 and "Mutual Aid," directed and conceived by Ethan Philbrick, visiting assistant professor of theatre.

Recently, department members received an email detailing fundamental changes to the structure and presentation of "Mutual Aid." The project, which was initially going to be presented as an adaptation of Peter Kropotkin's 1902 text Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution. The aforementioned department email brought up important concerns about Muhlenberg's history of silencing BIPOC voices in the theatre, and how the themes addressed in "Mutual Aid" raise blaring red flags.

"When I got involved with the project I was faced with the reality that the ensemble was entirely white and as we began to have in depth conversations about how the world works and systemic oppression and what we want the world to be," said "Mutual Aid" ensemble member Brayden Stallman '23. "[This] really emphasized to me how much those absences were a huge problem that needed to be fixed. The theatre department is still in the middle of reckoning with their history, and frankly should always be, and producing another all-white space does not feel like the direction that we should be headed."

Other members of the company agreed strongly with Stallman's line of frustration, and feel that student action is the best way to address and educate the community about racial injustice more specifically within the concept of mutual aid itself, including Andrew Gordon '23.

"I believe that the new direction of the Mutual Aid Production, being the practice of mutual aid itself on Muhlenberg's campus is one that will prove to be more beneficial and substantive than the initial idea of a performance could have provided it's audiences," explained Gordon. "Mutual aid is inherently inclusive, and so to have a cast, especially one being entirely compromised as white-identifying performers, would be fundamentally against the tenants of mutual aid as it is practiced and understood on a daily basis. The new direction allows for a truer understanding of what mutual aid is for both the individuals previously involved in creating the performance and for those across the Muhlenberg community who can now practice mutual aid rather than have mutual aid preached to them by those who are just beginning to understand the concept themselves."

Another cast member, Cailyn Murray '23, gave their perspective. "Personally, I'm really excited about the direction that the mutual aid collective has taken. The intentionality behind performance is something that I've been thinking a lot about recently, and ultimately the original idea of putting on a production about mutual aid rather than participating in it would have felt disingenuous at best and demeaning at worst. The talks that we had early on in the process as we came to this decision were really eye opening in realizing how we had the opportunity to not only shed light on the injustices and disparities we see at Muhlenberg, but to practice what we were originally going to just preach. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to do some real good for the community and inspire others to help each other when people in power will not."

The company has decided to reformat itself from a musical theatre production to a series of seven conversations amongst the student body, which are open to all faculty and students. These conversations are scheduled to take place every other Wednesday from 7-9pm, in the Baker Center for the Arts, rm. 166, which will be announced prior to each meeting.

"I don't believe that the Mutual Aid Project is the only way for people to be able to make change on this campus or in this world," explained Stallman, "But I am happy that it's there for people who want to do it in their own way. The theatre department has major restructuring issues that they are in the midst of, and I hope that this is an example of how when you structure a season in this way, it is hard to make an entire season diverse. There is a large root cause that begins with admissions and selling the department which largely goes back to Charlie Richter and the history of how it has been promoted, but a real diverse season is diverse in every level and it's important to see and acknowledge how these gaps limit what the department should do."

Auditioning during the omicron variant

By Gabi Hirshfield
Contributing Writer

PHOTO BY KEANNA PENA '25

Students had the unique experience of auditioning virtually.

It's audition season, but that has a new meaning during a pandemic. The faculty and students at Muhlenberg are committed to creating the wonderful performances that our community is known for; however, with the current pandemic, those in charge of the audition process have a new challenge: keeping everyone safe while still having fun.

Various precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all those involved in productions this semester. Rachelle Montilus '24, the coordinator for Studio performances this semester, describes how the audition process was altered, saying, "Studio auditions were held virtually this semester so that directors could get a better idea of what actors will look like without masks, and so the actors did not have to be in the room with the directors because that was a big concern with COVID." In terms of the performances, Montilus stated, "We're sticking to the college mandated 12 feet between performers and the audience so that the performers can remain unmasked for performances. Of course, if the policy with COVID on campus and the masking policy changes, then we'll have to make that adjustment. But for now, we're trying to do as much as we can to make sure that performers can do what they love to do." Montilus also points out the important agreement and trust that exists between fellow cast members: "All of our directors are going to talk to their casts about agreements with COVID safety and complying with protocols so that all cast members can be safe and they can keep their fellow cast members safe."

Those involved in performance groups have a positive opinion of those who are running auditions and rehearsals this semester. Charlotte McKay '24, a member of the Women's Choir Ensemble, stated, "I feel so grateful that I still have the opportunity to be in a choir during the pandemic. In the early stages of the pandemic, I was worried I would never sing in a choir again." The ensemble is run by Dr. Chris Jackson, and McKay states, "He has done an amazing job to keep our spirits high while maintaining safety precautions, and still make choir that warm and exciting place for so many people."

In terms of safety precautions, McKay describes mask-wearing while singing, saying, "Wearing a mask during rehearsal and performances can be an inconvenience because it's usually helpful to be able to see people's faces during songs, but I'm just so grateful to be there that I'll, of course, do it without complaint." Like many others, McKay is grateful to have the opportunity to perform once again and recognizes the dedication of those running these programs.

Shira Holtz '24, who is a part of the a capella group Chaimonics, describes the audition process, which took place at the beginning of the semester. She says, "In regards to auditions, it's not very different from last semester. Last semester I was auditioning and this semester I get to be on the other side of the table, so the experience felt very different to me but the actual logistics have luckily been able to be pretty similar. All of the a cappella groups were able to hold in-person auditions and are planning for in-person callbacks which really helps everyone get a vibe for each other and it's so lovely to get to hear people sing in person!"

Danny Milkis '23, who helped coordinate auditions for the a capella group Noteworthy, stated, "In addition to having our normal in-person auditions, we also had an option for people to send in videos, and those people who sent in videos that we wanted to call back we asked that they come in person and that seemed to work for our group specifically."

Something that is clear from this audition season is the dedication and resilience of the Muhlenberg community. Even though there is a pandemic, the performance groups on campus are still extremely committed to creating meaningful performances in the safest way possible.

REASONS TO JOIN...
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YOU WANT TO:
AMPLIFY STUDENT VOICES
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From **Radio** page 5

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

The art of music allows for honest expressions, and while it can be a stressful process, it allows for connection between a wide variety of individuals. This can especially be true for college students with a welcoming and vibrant community to respect their works and to create a safe space for their original songs to be respected. Muhlenberg's very own radio station, WMUH, highlighted the work of two student songwriters, Emily Kirchner '22 and Luke McIntyre '25, the two winners of the Radio Riff Off from the fall. The Red Door Cafe hosted the event on Friday, Jan. 25, at 8pm. The event combined students in-person and also family members and friends who decided to watch remotely via a livestream.

The event was brought together thanks to the work of the WMUH team and Emma Ash '24 and Sophie Plaut '24, who served as the hosts of the evening, introducing Kirchner and McIntyre. Ash stated, "A lot of people showed up, we had over 140 people show up, which is a massive turnout. There was a lot of joy and a lot of camaraderie and support for the people that were performing, Emily and Luke."

Kirchner performed a wide variety of original works and added introductions to the songs to add a sense of warmth and connection between the audience and the songwriter. One specific song focused on Kirchner's experience working at a grocery store on Christmas Eve and how a woman came in crying. The piece entitled, "Fears Into Wings," was highly emotional and continued the story of this woman and how to build up courage and strength.

The indie music of Kirchner helped to highlight how she won the second place position during the competitive Radio Riff Off back in October. The audience also cheered Kirchner on during multiple points of her performance, allowing for it to truly feel supportive and connective. Kirchner also played the ukulele and piano, bringing her pieces to life in an exciting way.

McIntyre served as the headliner of the showcase, as part of his achievement of winning first place during the Riff Off competition. The singer/songwriter featured a wide range of works, such as his moving original pieces in addition to the works of Coldplay. In addition, the artist transformed the Red Door Cafe into a theatrical space with works from "Once," the Broadway musical. These established works are personal for McIntyre and helped to inspire him to write his own pieces and songs.

"Once" not only connected to the singer on a personal level, but also for his passion for musical theatre." McIntyre stated, "As the son of an Irish immigrant, I'm really drawn to the story and the music of the musical 'Once' and its themes. The show feels so personal to me, and the character 'Guy' is certainly a dream role of mine."

The artist is also involved with the theatre and dance department here at 'Berg and will be performing in "Miss You Like Hell," the upcoming mainstage musical.

The songwriter also incorporated a guitar to bring his artistic spirit to life and this acted as its own beast as well. The crowd cheered and hollered for McIntyre's magic on the guitar. "You could hear people cheer in the audience when they hit a beautiful note, or when Luke would perform really cool guitar riffs," Ash said.

"Performing all those songs in front of the Muhlenberg community was really special. I haven't been here long, but I've met some of the most supporting and incredible people here at Muhlenberg. It makes performing even more fun when you know the audience is there to support you every step of the way," McIntyre stated.

The showcase allowed for a chill environment rather than an intense competition for artists to try and win. The showcase served as a creative space for the songwriters, with Kirchner and McIntyre having complete control over their setlists. The artists expanded upon their original works, while also highlighting the songs that earned them the showcase in the first place. Kirchner concluded with "Bloom," her second place winning song, and McIntyre transformed audience members with "Speed Of Light," the first place winning piece. McIntyre's original works were interwoven with his featured covers, creating an unforgettable performance.

"The song 'Speed of Light' is sort of a tribute to Coldplay, the name itself was inspired by their song 'Speed Of Sound,'" continued McIntyre.

The artist's Instagram is @l.mc9 and his music is featured on music streaming platforms and Kirchner's account is @emilykirchnermusic. WMUH will continue to develop events throughout the spring, including a concert in April. Thanks to their support, these bold songwriters resonated with electric audience members and more artists will continue to do so in the near future.

"I'm just happy that people came to support their friends and live music, it was cool," concluded Ash.

A focus on Ally Duvak's piece, "Wake"

By Ian Clark & Johnny Veglia
Assistant A&C Editor & Co-A&C Editor

Photo Courtesy of Ally Duvak '22

from left to right: Leanna Niesen '24, Ally Duvak '22, Olivia Thiemann '24, Evelyn Carlin '24, and Alison Rutyna '23

When she initially wrote "Wake," Ally Duvak '22 didn't expect it to get nearly as far as it did. "The idea that sort of abruptly came to me when I was in Advanced Playwriting this time last year. I liked it enough that I decided to try it out in the Red Doors. After that, I decided to gamble and apply for Studios and was very pleasantly surprised when they accepted it."

The piece is now headlining one of the four Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA) Studio productions this spring. The piece was developed during her coursework here at 'Berg and it continues to develop with each new performance. Duvak declared, "So it's been through many rounds of drafts, rewriting and workshopping. Now it's a little more expansive than it used to be and I'm really excited to see what form it takes with the whole technical team behind it."

The Red Door Play Festival is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their plays and directing skills, but the space is limited to the Red Door Cafe. For "Wake" and other Red Door pieces, the sound and lighting were operated by the stage manager for the piece, and a budget of $75 was utilized to gather props. Leanna Niesen '24, worked on the piece as the stage manager and will continue with the play's transition to the Studio Theatre. Niesen commented about the Play Festival saying, "There is something so special about being a part of a process that is so collaborative. I feel like in Red Doors, our cast was able to help collaborate and help build these characters as the script was still developing and we're still in that process."

Duvak stated, "I'm really excited for a bigger audience to be able to see the show. ... I'm really excited to play with the technical aspects of that, that I've never been able to really tinker with before, and just get this story and its message out to a broader audience about, especially in this day and age, what's worth saying while you have the time to say it."

The Studio Theatre is filled with a full lighting and soundboard along with the traditional components of a theatrical space. Designers will work on the show and help to bring the three-person play to life and capture the essence of this unique ghost story.

Something different about the Studios experience this season is the adaptation to the concerns related to the omicron variant. Although performances will be in person, auditions this time around have been through video submission. Actors had to record themselves performing monologues allowing them the opportunity to film multiple attempts if one didn't turn out that well or for the director to rewatch auditions in order to truly evaluate someone's performance.

"I couldn't ask them to do it a different way. I couldn't read sides with people, I couldn't really do that impromptu in-the-room stuff that we used to be able to do. But I could watch people's videos multiple times, reflect back and play people next to each other and see if I thought they would work well together. It's not the same as being able to call people back and have them read together, but it worked in its own way," Duvak continued.

As the saying goes, 'write what you know,' and that's something Duvak took to heart while crafting "Wake." She took inspiration from all aspects of her life for the show, incorporating even the tiniest details drawn from memories of her friends and family. For Duvak, her piece is interwoven with emotions, both present and past, and histories of relationships.

"As far as inspiration goes, this was definitely inspired by real life events for me. Unfortunately, the story was in part brought about by real losses that I experienced – both in the forms of loved ones passing away but also in longtime friendships fading ... I think that all of the characters have a piece of me in their onstage representation," stated Duvak.

The work of the play will continue to develop with a whole new cast for the upcoming production in April. Rehearsals for the piece begin tonight, Feb. 3, and Duvak will bring her personal stories to life. Performing this piece will allow for the deep emotions and experiences of Duvak to resonate with audiences. The Studios space will also allow for the haunting presence of loss and grief to manifest in new dimensions, while also leaving audiences with some positive emotions too.

"I'd say it's really inspired by the moment during a funeral where ... you start joking around about the person you lost. ... Loss is at the heart of the story, sure, but there's gratitude, too, as these friends reflect on the importance of what they had. My hope is not to have people crying the whole time. I want them to laugh, to think fondly of the people they've lost, and to remember the importance of telling the people they have that they love them while they still have the chance."

Behind the mozzarella sticks: A naturalistic observation

By Lily Magoon
Contributing Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR USER MARK H. ANBINDER

GQ: the heart and soul of campus. Students and faculty grabbing a quick meal between classes, tutors and tutees leaning over computer screens, friends gathering to study over coffee, and individuals hunkered down to crank out the five-page paper due at 11:59 p.m. that night (as soon as they figure out how to start).

Like a watering hole in the desert of academia, people from every social group gather there peacefully to satiate a common need.

But the creatures who inhabit it come nightfall are very different from these.

Picture, if you will, GQ at 3 a.m. on a Saturday.

vThe fluorescent bulbs are harsh, with no natural light to add warmth. The ceiling feels lower, the carpet dirtier, and the sushi a little suspect.

Slowly, the nocturnal species of this biosphere come crawling, skipping, and stumbling in from all over, and in various states of lucidity.

These vary from day to day and season to season, but there is a set cast of characters we've all come to know and love.

The Loud One. Everyone in GQ at this time is less than volume-conscious, but there are always a few people who manage to include the entire room in their conversation without meaning to. They're surrounded by a group desperately trying to shut them up, or maybe being egged on by their equally enthusiastic friends. If at any point you or a member of your group starts belting out Victorious songs, you are The Loud Ones.

That One Guy From Class. Everyone has those classes that they'd rather not be taking. You go (sometimes), you sit, you stare into space for 80 minutes, and then you leave. You don't know most of the other people super well, but you see That One Guy From Class in GQ at this time, and he's suddenly hugging you like you're estranged war buddies. You've never spoken to them before, but for the next few minutes, you have a new best friend, even if they guess your name wrong. A run-in with That One Guy From Class exists in a vacuum; you will never acknowledge each other again if either of you remembers that it happened to begin with.

The One Person On Campus You Don't Want To See. Exes, bad hookups, or even just friends you're trying to break up with. When the school is this tiny, and GQ so integral to the weekend experience, it's not surprising to see someone who makes you wince when they walk into the room. Nothing brings down the night quite like The One Person On Campus You Don't Want To See, but there aren't many things that fries can't solve, and half a box in, you'll forget they were even there.

The Person You're Responsible For. For Orientation Leaders, Writing Assistants, and RAs, there's a special kind of weirdness that comes with seeing a student you're responsible for stumble, red-eyed and giggling, by your booth. You're not in a particularly role-model conducive state, and locking eyes with a freshman who keeps skipping your tutoring sessions despite the several emails you've sent is a deeply unsettling experience.

The Supportive Drunk Girl In The Bathroom. You know them, you love them, they never get tired of telling you how pretty you are. Not only will they hype you up better than anyone you know, they ask deep, thought-provoking questions we don't think to consider, such as my personal favorite, "have you ever met anyone you'd unbutton your pants for?"

The beauty of GQ at 3 a.m. is that these roles change from night to night, and even moment to moment. Chances are, we've all hyped someone up in the bathroom, or been the one person on the whole campus someone is desperately trying to avoid. Sometimes a barely comprehensible conversation with a classmate in the line for mozzarella sticks is the thing that sparks a genuine relationship. GQ at 3 a.m. is truly the great equalizer.

Paige's Page

By Paigev Weisburg
Contributing Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome back to this week's edition of Paige's Page, the first of the semester! I hope everyone had an amazing break. I hope it was a time to decompress, relax, maybe mature as a person and disconnect from people and things that may not have been serving you. I had a really interesting break. I turned 21, spent a lot of time with my parents, and didn't speak to any of my friends. Now you may be wondering, Paige, why did you not talk to any of your friends? Well, I needed to take this break to do all of the things I listed above. I started to remember how to be grateful for the things I had, the communities I was a part of, and the people who love me and my many, many flaws. I processed the good and the bad of the previous 16 weeks, watched Succession on HBO Max in three days, and changed the titanium stud in my nose to a rose gold hoop (a fun little physical change for the new year). I returned to Allentown ready to take on all of the things that haunted me in December. I hate to be like "new year, new me," but I came back more resilient, more patient with myself, and better prepared for the things that awaited me. These first two weeks back have been really beautiful but incredibly challenging, and I know you all felt that too. This week, we are discussing getting back to school. I can't wait to get into these questions!

Hi, Paige! How do I get back into my classes if my brain is still in break mode?

Hey, bestie! This is super tough. For some people, the break seems too long, and to some, it never feels long enough. I think either way it can be a really difficult transition to go from relaxing to working really hard, taking difficult classes, and maintaining all of the other things that we as Muhlenberg students do, which is always too much. Personally, I struggle with readjusting to a new routine. This obviously makes classes harder. My sleep schedule right now is so off, you don't even want to know what time of the evening I'm writing this. But ultimately we have to learn how to live with this new daily and weekly schedule. One thing that I have been prioritizing to get me back into "school mode" is to do a lot of self-care. I know that when I'm here, I tend to let that dwindle because I don't see it as something that is attainable every day for me with my packed schedule. Making it a priority provides me with structure, which is something I need in order to function as a human being. I know that every morning when I wake up, I take a shower, do my entire skincare routine (which usually by week three is just face wash, moisturizer, and sunscreen – NEVER FORGET SUNSCREEN!!!), listen to a podcast, and pick out an outfit that makes me feel confident and comfortable. I feel so much more ready for the day when I look and feel my best. It's a new semester, with new professors, new classmates, and amazing things to learn and discuss. Embrace the change. Trust me, I know it is easier said than done, but I think that it really helps to just go with it. You will get used to your new routine easier that way.

Hey, Paige. Do you have any tips for getting motivated in a class you hate?

Hi, bestie! You know I do! To protect me and the future of my grade in this class, I will be slightly cryptic, however, I am going through this right now. I am taking a class to fulfill a GAR in a subject that I don't like and I am not very good at. I have no motivation to do any of the reading or homework, even though we have to submit it before every class. I have a new roommate this semester and she and I have started this little bit together where we just think it would be so funny if we did our silly little homework, and it would be absolutely hysterical if we, like, turned it in on time and it was correct and we spent time really thinking and learning about the course material. Specifically for

See **Paige's** page 9

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/ Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

From **Paige's** page 8

this class, that mindset is surprisingly helping so much because we are holding each other accountable while also keeping it light and fun with my amazing throwbacks playlist in the background. If you don't see this ironic way of doing your homework as motivating to you, maybe find ways to reward yourself for getting your work done. It can be a snack, a phone break, or watching TV with your friends. Anything works as long as it helps you to be productive. If all of this doesn't work, just remember that 16 weeks isn't a lot of time, and it will be over soon.

Hey, Paige. I really lightened my load for this semester. I am used to overextending myself and I realized I need to learn how to relax. How do I do this? I feel so unproductive. Help!

Hey, bestie! This is such a fantastic question as I am currently experiencing exactly this. Most of my leadership positions, specifically the ones that had taken up the majority of my time and energy, ended when last semester came to a close. I decided to only take three classes this semester, and take on more hours at my job. This has led to a surprisingly empty week. And while some people would love the schedule I have this semester, I hate it and it's only week three. Honestly I don't hate it but it is just dramatically different from what I am used to, and I am trying really hard to figure out how to adjust. Recently, I've been feeling really useless a lot of the time, and I had to remind myself that I am doing this for my mental health and physical health, in order for me to learn how to appreciate the present and live in the moment. I think maybe you are experiencing the same thing. Let me know and maybe we can grab a meal together with all of this free time on our hands. All of this being said, I understand how difficult this is. Find activities that you previously didn't have time for due to your busy schedule. For example, I love doing spin classes when I'm at home. I had no time to do the ones offered through the school because I always had class at the time they were scheduled, but now I am available to do them. All of your perceived unproductivity is exactly the point of your goal for this semester. Make the most of it! Enjoy your time with friends and enjoy your time with yourself. This is what you need to feel successful, and give yourself grace on this journey that, at least speaking for myself, was incredibly hard to take.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree @bergweekly.

Listen Loudly

…

A creative space for marginalized voices

self portrait as cuddling

By Des Suavez
Contributing Writer

i am intertwined feet and breath hot on napes
          too close and yet not close enough

the sliver of sunlight that streams through the window illuminates only parts of me, and never
quite can cover the entirety of my body
to be laid on or to lay, either way
          i am closer to the other because our bodies are speaking in vernaculars i have yet to
understand
goosebumps trail along my skins thin surface, speaking feverishly and withdrawn at the same time
these details shyly reveal our affection, from the nervous sweat that pools where our bodies touch to the
hush that falls among my tiny hearts littering our forearms

i am an enveloping slumber bringing solitude and weakening the distraction that is a
cacophony of voices inside my head
the warmth i can feel is enough to ward nightmares for days
                                                                                                              weeks
but the cycle always ends and the sun must fall-
as the terrors return as soon as the moments through yet they had never really gone
the terrors of unworthiness
                         awkwardness
                         stiff limbs
melt away.
i am
an uncertain certainty
i am wanting you to feel comfortable, catering to your calls and pleased with small
praise
that forms in the soft strokes that ease the
 boulders of tension between my shoulder blades
heavy thoughts
          slowing gears
                         My head is clear, safe for the space taken up by this
between us.
                                                                                  for a fraction of the minutes we share,
i am who i want to appear as, safe for the fraction of terrors in the seconds
                                                                                                              between us.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAXPIXEL.NET

Foraging

By Sydney Baron
Contributing Writer

I'm thinking about a river
Where light creates crystals
And tenderness beckons
Me into her water

I'm thinking about oak trees
Rattling softly in the breeze
Cheering for me
As the gusts shake her leaves

These spirits they hold me
Caress my body
Challenge and warm me
'Til I find my way home

The fog's frosted sunbeams
And the crinkle of snap peas
Are my mentors, my friends and
The song that's within me

No creature's unworthy
Of loving touch and gaze
We all dance together
'Til we find our way home

'Berg men's wrestling sprawls into second half

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Muhlenberg wrestling is prepared for a late-season push.

By Noah Berger
Staff Writer

Throughout the 2021-2022 year, the Muhlenberg wrestling team has dealt with a variety of challenging circumstances. The team has both their freshman and sophomores experiencing the college wrestling scene for the first time in their collegiate careers. However, despite the ups and downs, the wrestling team continued to wrestle over the winter break.

Yongbue Goodall-Tanco '22 reflected upon Head Coach Jason McLean's '01 mindset heading into the second half of their season. He said, "A big facet of McLean's dogma this year has been starting fresh. We have an incredibly young team with two years worth of wrestlers who are only now experiencing college-level competition. McLean made sure we wrestled a plethora of really good teams early in the season like JWU [Johnson & Wales University], Central [College], and NYU [New York University] to help avoid complacency."

Ryan Kaplow '23 reflected on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the team during winter break. He said, "The recent outbreak so far has not affected the team in competing at the highest level so far since Coach McLean communicates with us about what he wants us to do in making sure to protect ourselves from any exposure. However, during winter break we lost the ability to compete at one tournament due to that college having multiple outbreaks with other schools that were planning on attending."

Since the wrestling team had matches over break, they had to deal with adjusting COVID-19 protocols and the rise of the omicron variant. Goodall-Tanco shared his perspective on the effect that the pandemic has had on the team. He said, "I don't think COVID has stopped us from competing at our best at all. The biggest issue with COVID was early in the season: practice groups were split into two groups since our team is bigger than ever before and social functions slowed down substantially. Traveling with smaller rosters and fielding fewer exhibition matches has caused the schedule to become more hectic as we look for ways to get everyone mat time. Schools have pulled out of meets and matches have been postponed, resulting in a lot of matches being scheduled in rapid succession. But regardless of all of these factors, the energy in the room and on the mat has remained consistent. We want to win and we're willing to put in all the work necessary to do that, pandemic or not."

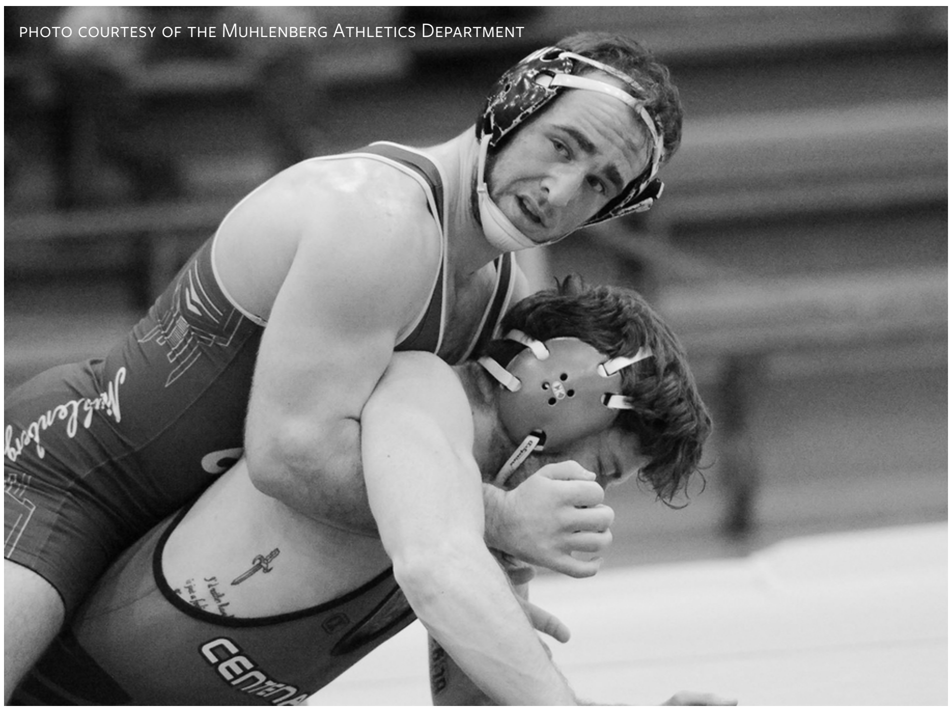
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Fletcher Goodman '25 grapples his opponent.

Ryan Kaplow spoke about the relationship between the wrestlers and the coaching staff in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said, "Coach McLean has talked to all of us about following the COVID-19 policies on campus and if we go off campus to make sure to protect ourselves and the Muhlenberg community. He has stressed that following these protocols also make it easier for us to continue to practice and compete." Kaplow and other members of the team recognize the always-evolving nature of the pandemic, and each wrestler is prepared to be willing to change given the protocols.

Sean Quaye '25 echoed a bit of a different statement when it came to reflecting

See **Wrestling** page 11

Indoor track program has hurdled back into action

Muhlenberg track hosts their first meet of 2022 with some great results from many Mule athletes.

By Olivia Oberman
Contributing Writer

After a month hiatus, the Muhlenberg track team hurdled back into their indoor season excited to compete. Many of the members, being dual-athletes and devoted students, have found much success thus far. After great results at the Moravian Invitational, the Mules hosted their opponents at home this past Friday Jan. 28, for the first time in 3 years. The opponents included the men's and women's teams from the Universities of Arcadia, Gwynedd-Mercy, Desales, and Neumann.

To name a few of the program's impressive results, Noah Halterman-Mitchell '24, Kyle Tassone '23, Hayden Klein '25, and Jason Ivey '23 took up four of the top five slots in the men's 800-meter race. Erica Borbi '24, Corrin Ferrizzi '22, and Emily Marr '24 were three of the top five finishers as well in shot put.

John Panny '23 placed first in the triple jump and long jump at 6.97 meters, breaking his own school record. "We're pretty versatile as a whole," says Panny, "a lot of kids on the team can compete and excel in a bunch of different ways." To no surprise, the Mules have been doing just that in various events. Captain Pat Smurla '22 adds, "I'd say overall there are a lot of people who are shooting to keep beating their personal bests and many also shooting for school records or to crack the Muhlenberg all-time top 10 list in their event. Additionally, for the team, we are looking to do well again at the conference meet at the end of February. We already have a lot of athletes who qualified for the conference meet but we want to place in the top five schools at the meet."

PHOTO BY REBECCA CLARK '23

High Jumper and Team Captain Ben Arehart '22.

The athletes take advantage of this winter season to not only put new records on the board but to get a head start on their upcoming spring season. Abby Dalton '22 expressed, "Winter track is a great time to build up strength for the spring season, so that's what I'm focusing on right now."

"As far as the sprinters and hurdlers, Coach [Stephen] Register is focusing on getting everyone strong for our outdoor season by running 400s at every meet indoors. He's trying to get our form and techniques better before outdoor as well so that we can focus more on our specific events," says Kayleigh Durning '22. This short season is a perfect opportunity for the coaches to prepare their athletes for what is to come in the spring.

Although the sport is strongly reliant on individual effort, captain Ben Arehart '22 explains that, "Track is simply not an individual sport. Of course, athletes have specific events that they focus on, however, the role one has on the team is not defined by one particular event." He continues, "I speak for myself and several individuals on the team when I say this, the support teammates give during competition without a doubt contributes directly to the success of other events, and in turn, impacts the success of the team as a whole. This aspect is what brings us together as a group, because track [& field] is ultimately a long battle against yourself and your internal goals."

Arehart's view on the program seems to be widespread. Dylan DeMagistris '24 adds, "The energy of the team is contagious and personally makes me perform at a higher level".

Hopefully, that same energy will bring the team more success at the NYC Division 3 Invitational meet on Wednesday Feb. 2.

‘Berg basketball tries to rally for playoff spots

Forwards, Tommy McGuire ‘23 and Margaux Eripret ‘22, speak on their respective teams’ fight for a playoff spot despite the struggles they have faced this season.

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The Mules stand united at the free-throw line for the national anthem during the 2021-2022 season.

Both Muhlenberg basketball teams were back on campus by Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 on getting ready for the second half of each of their seasons. However, because of the rise in COVID-19 cases around the country due to the new omicron variant, both teams have faced postponements of games throughout the past month.

The men’s team had their first three games of the spring semester postponed and moved to later dates. Forward Tommy McGuire ‘23 talked about how he and his teammates were able to stay ready and prepared, despite not knowing when they were going to be able to play again. McGuire said, “We knew a lot of other teams were in the same situation as we were so it was just a matter of us hoping we would have the chance to play again soon. Then when we were able to play, we knew we had to flip the switch to give ourselves the best chance to win.”

Not only did the men’s team lose some players for a few games due to quarantine restrictions, but they also lost two-time preseason All-American, Dan Gaines ‘22, for the rest of the season after suffering a wrist injury in the Mules first game of 2022. Gaines recently became the fourth fastest player in Muhlenberg men’s basketball history to reach the 1,000 career point mark. When talking about losing Gaines for the season, McGuire added: “A lot of production has been gone without Dan but guys have stepped up and managed to figure out ways to fill those holes. Despite the fact that a lot of us do not have playing experience at the collegiate level, we have managed to come together and I’ve been proud of the strides we have made.”

> **″Despite the fact that a lot of us do not have playing experience at the collegiate level, we have managed to come together and I’ve been proud of the strides we have made.″**

Currently they sit at a record of 7-12 overall (4-8 in conference play) and eighth in the Centennial Conference, the men’s team have not had the season they hoped for, as they were the third seed in the Centennial Conference preseason poll. However, they still have a shot to sneak into the playoffs if they end the season on a strong note. “Certainly, once the playoffs come everyone has a chance. Obviously being a higher seed was our goal to start the year but we have to focus on giving ourselves the best chance each game,” McGuire said when talking about making the playoffs. Even if it’s the fifth seed, it’s clear the season will be viewed as a success if theyare able to make the postseason after such a slow first half. With six games left in the regular season, the Mules are going to have to do their part and win the majority of these games if they want to be able to slip into the playoffs.

Similar to the men’s team, the Muhlenberg women’s basketball team have also had to deal with COVID-19 and injuries affecting their second half of the season. The women’s team have also had three games postponed so far this spring semester due to COVID-19. Starting forward Margaux Eripret ‘22 spoke about COVID-19 affecting the team’s season, saying, “It definitely hasn’t been easy, we’ve even had games that were canceled less than two hours before it was supposed to start. It’s frustrating, but we’re lucky that the games are postponed and not canceled, so we just try to keep competing with each other in practice and staying sharp for when game days do come around. With COVID, and especially for us seniors, it makes you think about how important it is to make the most of the games we are getting to play before we blink and it’s over.”

And just like the men’s team who lost one of their best players, the women’s team has as well. Starting forward Sara Peretti ‘23 has not been able to play this spring due to an ankle injury. Eripret commented on playing without Perretti and how it’s given the underclassmen who weren’t playing much previously, a larger opportunity. “It’s a challenge to lose such an important and experienced player, but we’ve had a lot of close and competitive games that just unfortunately didn’t result in wins. It’s given our underclassmen a chance for real experience early in their careers. It’s not easy to make the transition from a high school to college basketball player, but they’ve worked really hard to jump into the roles that opened up for them. It’s going to be really helpful for the second half of our season and for the rest of their years here.”

Sitting four seats out of a playoff spot, the women’s team would essentially need a whole-court shot alongside extra help of certain centennial conference contests to go the Mules way.

The women’s team will host Swathmore College Feb. 4. The men will then defend Memorial Hall the next day, Feb. 5, against the McDaniel College Green Terror.

By publishing both teams would have the Dickinson College Red Devils Feb. 2 at Memorial Hall.

From **Wrestling** page 10

upon the current COVID-19 outbreak. Quaye said, “The recent outbreak of COVID was just another obstacle the team had to hurdle and navigate around to accomplish our mission of being great. It’s annoying and inconvenient at times but that doesn’t stop our guys from being absolute hammers on the mat.”

On Thursday Jan. 27, they faced off against Delaware Valley. Goodall-Tanco shared his thoughts on his personal approach as well as the approach of the team. He said, “We’ve been laser-focused on gearing our program for future success and not getting complacent with past achievements.”

Quaye is on the mat for the first time at ‘Berg. He is enjoying his experience so far, and touched on his expectations with the team so far. He said, “My experience wrestling as a Mule has surpassed the individual expectations I had for my collegiate wrestling experience. The room is full of talent and dedicated guys. As far as team expectations go I believe we have performed well, especially when winning as a team and running the team scoreboard up at tournaments.”

The Mules are taking strides to continue to improve for the rest of their season, they will be hosting the Ursinus College Bears at Memorial Hall Thursday Feb. 3.

Muhlenberg softball on deck

The Mules are heading into the start of their preseason schedule with much anticipation for season ahead.

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Shortstop Karmazyn ‘22 sliding into home.

On Feb. 1, the softballs would have tried unionizing if they were sentient, due to the absolute abuse faced by a close-knit Muhlenberg softball team.

Muhlenberg softball is entering their upcoming season with only the seniors ever seeing a full collegiate season. Sarah Karmazyn ‘22 (AKA Karm), an infielder on the team, says she is “super excited for the season.”

The team will start their long 48 game season, with a two week spring break tour through Virginia, South Carolina, and Maryland. “You are forced to hangout,” says Ava Calabrese ‘25 catcher and corner infielder, with absolute joy in her voice.

This team is in no need of bonding, “We all clicked really fast,” according to pitcher Justine Bergara ‘25.

The team has bonded upon the foundation that Coach Leavenworth has built. According to shortstop Kaitlyn Buurman ‘25, “The senior class is really selfless in the way that they go about accepting us and teaching us the skills that they have learned at the collegiate level and because of that way of approaching teaching us we’re going to be the best version of ourselves on and off the field.”

Calabrese emphasized this sentiment saying, “Everyone looks out for each other because that’s what the seniors reamed into us.”

When asked about how the senior class has learned to be such influential and accepting leaders Karm described that, “We all come with different types of leadership. The fact that our coach created this type of leadership means it’s something that we’ll pass along”

For this team there is a lot to be said about passing along the traditions and culture that Coach Leavenworth has fostered at Muhlenberg softball since joining the program in 2020. Calabrese explains the MULES philosophy is “M is Magnanimous, U is Uncommon, L is the little things a lot, E is Excited and S is Sturdy.” Buurman explains that since the fall, “Before lifts and practice we do a four-minute MULES [session] where our coach or one of us sits down with one of the core values of the softball team and explains what it means to us.”

If you’re wondering, in this team of tradition and community, even Sturdy has a story. Karm narrates that, “Sturdy came from a few years ago, it’s actually a really random story about one of our upperclassmen at the time and a student called her sturdy as a joke. So we started calling her [Sophie Chong ‘21] Sturdy Chong. It caught on and the coach even took it and it meant to stay grounded with all things, not just softball.”

From the seniors to the freshman, this culture of support and exceptionality as student-athletes is apparent. The seniors are ready to compete again and teach the underclassmen what it means to be a Mule and according to Calabrese, “One of my goals is to be an absolute sponge around them and learn what Muhlenberg softball is all about.”

So while it may have been their first day of official practice, this team is ready to cling to the fences of the dugout and cheer on their teammates. Karm describes the large number of underclassmen as a great asset to the team’s depth. Buurman, too, noted that the first practice went well and commented,“Our team dynamic is super strong and our friendship goes beyond the field.”

When asked about personal goals for the season, center infielder, Kaya Mahy ‘25 said simply, “To honor the upperclassmen.”

Bergara added that she hoped “to make a run deep in the playoffs,” and that as, “freshman we all want to start a couple of games, but to make a run to prove to Gettysburg [College] and McDaniels [College] that this freshman class is different, this team is different, Gettysburg be talking smack.”

Obviously, the kumbaya on this team has not softened their competitive edge.

In a season that will start off with a “bang,” as Bergara describes their spring break war tour, down the southern east coast, starting on Mar. 12 against Pfeiffer University in Virginia Beach.

As well as the plethora of doubleheaders that they will face in the regular season, the team will have to take to heart the advice from Leavenworth that Buurman highlighted of being “where your feet are, to not take this opportunity for granted.”

Appreciating the present and focusing on the next play in life as well as the next cutoff throw will be essential to this team’s success both on and off the field diamond.

Otherwise the lessons learned in this offseason will be learned with the pain of the southern clay fields and the harsh cold of academic row after a bad grade. After all, according to Bergara, “It’s not just about softball, it’s about life.”

Coming up this week in SPORTS
Feb. 3 - Feb. 10

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Ursinus
Thurs, Feb. 3 @ 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Women’s Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Swarthmore
Fri, Feb. 4 @ 6:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Men’s Basketball
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Sat, Feb. 5 @ 2:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Women’s Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Bryn Mawr
Mon, Feb. 7 @ 7:00 p.m.
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Outrage sparked by improper masking photo on Instagram

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022
VOLUME CXLIII, ISSUE XII
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NEWS

SGA shares their plans for 2022, including a focus on mental health and laundry changes. .

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Faith Bugman '24 talks about the importance of philosophy.

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A new feature, ″The All Weekly Team″ highlights outstanding atheles in the field.

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A tale of two quarantines

Students report differences in their quarantine experiences.

Photo courtesy of Rebecca Clark '23

Students testing positive for COVID are isolating in the 2201 Chew Street apartments

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Senior Staff Writer

COVID-19 cases on college campuses have been on the rise in the beginning weeks of the spring semester. Despite the spread of the highly contagious omicron variant, Muhlenberg College opened its campus, confident in the ability to hold in-person classes and keep students, faculty and staff safe from the threats of the virus.

"It is clear that [the] spread [of the omicron variant] is much more frequent and much less threatening in a vaccinated community," says Allison Williams, dean of students. Therefore, unlike a year ago, the number of cases is no longer the measure of health and safety in a vaccinated community. Instead, public health emergency is measured by severe sickness and hospitalization... Our students are much sicker right now with things like the GI virus, strep throat, bronchitis and the traditional flu." Although there is no public data to corroborate the numbers of Williams' claim.

The College's COVID-19 dashboard currently reports a significant decrease in cases from the week ending Jan. 30 (61 cases) and the week ending Feb. 6 (26 cases). These numbers are representative of reported cases. Per the Muhlenberg College COVID-19 Policy, all students are required to notify the College of all positive COVID-19 tests – but that does not necessarily mean that they do. In response to this recent reported decrease, health services attributes the College's prevention strategies to the lowered transmission rate on campus.

"Some of our most critical mitigation measures have been our mask use, especially with recommendations of the more effective KN95 masks and our COVID vaccination rate,″ says Brynnmarie Dorsey, executive director of health and counseling services. "As of Feb. 6, 92.6% of our students had received the COVID-19 booster vaccine."

"Students who are identified as needing to go in isolation are contacted by a member of the health center staff for case investigation and to provide instructions for isolation," says Williams. Following a positive test, students must complete a contract tracing form so that close contacts of exposure can be notified to quarantine as soon as possible.

The COVID-19 policy states, "Students who are required to quarantine or isolate during the semester and who live within 300 miles must go home for this period of time." Students who live outside of this 300 mile radius are permitted to move to the on-campus isolation housing. For students who are concerned about their identified isolation location (home or on campus), Williams adds that "students are in touch with one of [the College's] two quarantine coordinators who will help to determine what is best and when."

'Berg students have been eager to share their recent COVID-19 experiences in an effort to keep the community informed about the College's isolation and quarantine process.

A member of the class of '23 tested positive for COVID on Jan. 26. They are from the Lehigh Valley; however, they felt that, because they live with two high-risk people, they should be eligible to stay in the on-campus isolation housing.

"I told the school that I could not go home because of those circumstances and they told me I could pay $75/night and stay in the hotel they had contracted with or find an alternative housing option," the anonymous student said. Students who have been put up in hotels have received snack bags, but have to order, pay and have their own food delivered, creating additional costs to the hotel rate per night.

"I believed that I had 'extraordinary circumstances' because returning to my home was not possible." The student eventually found a relative who was able to vacate their home for them to stay in. With COVID symptoms, they drove two hours to isolate alone for six days. Health and counseling services did not remain in contact with them during that time.

"Overall, I am exceptionally disappointed with the way that my situation was handled by the College," they said. "I felt that my family′s personal safety was jeopardized and felt very offended when I was told that I 'had time to plan what I would do if I got COVID.'"

Naama Forman '23 also tested positive and was permitted to quarantine in the 22nd St. apartments because she lives outside the 300-mile radius. Forman explained that she was given as much time as she needed to pack her belongings and campus safety sent a car for her when she was ready to move to isolation housing.

"The [22nd St.] apartment was clean and comfortable and I was even allowed to switch rooms when the one I was originally assigned was too loud due to a generator right outside my window," Forman said.

Forman also received a roommate while in isolation. "A friend of mine tested positive and we requested to live with each other. This enhanced my experience a lot and it was very nice not being alone during this difficult time," she said.

The health center had a nurse call and check in with Forman every day. "It meant a lot to know that there was someone checking in on me and making sure my symptoms weren't so bad and that I was overall im-

See **Quarantine** page 7

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Katherine Dickey
Editor-In-Chief
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Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

01/31/2022
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): This afternoon Campus Safety received a report that cash was reported missing from an unblocked student residence in Taylor Hall. There were no reports of forced entry, and no students were present at the time of the incident. The cash was taken from a student's wallet that was located in the room. Campus Safety is actively investigating this report.
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): Report of sick student, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

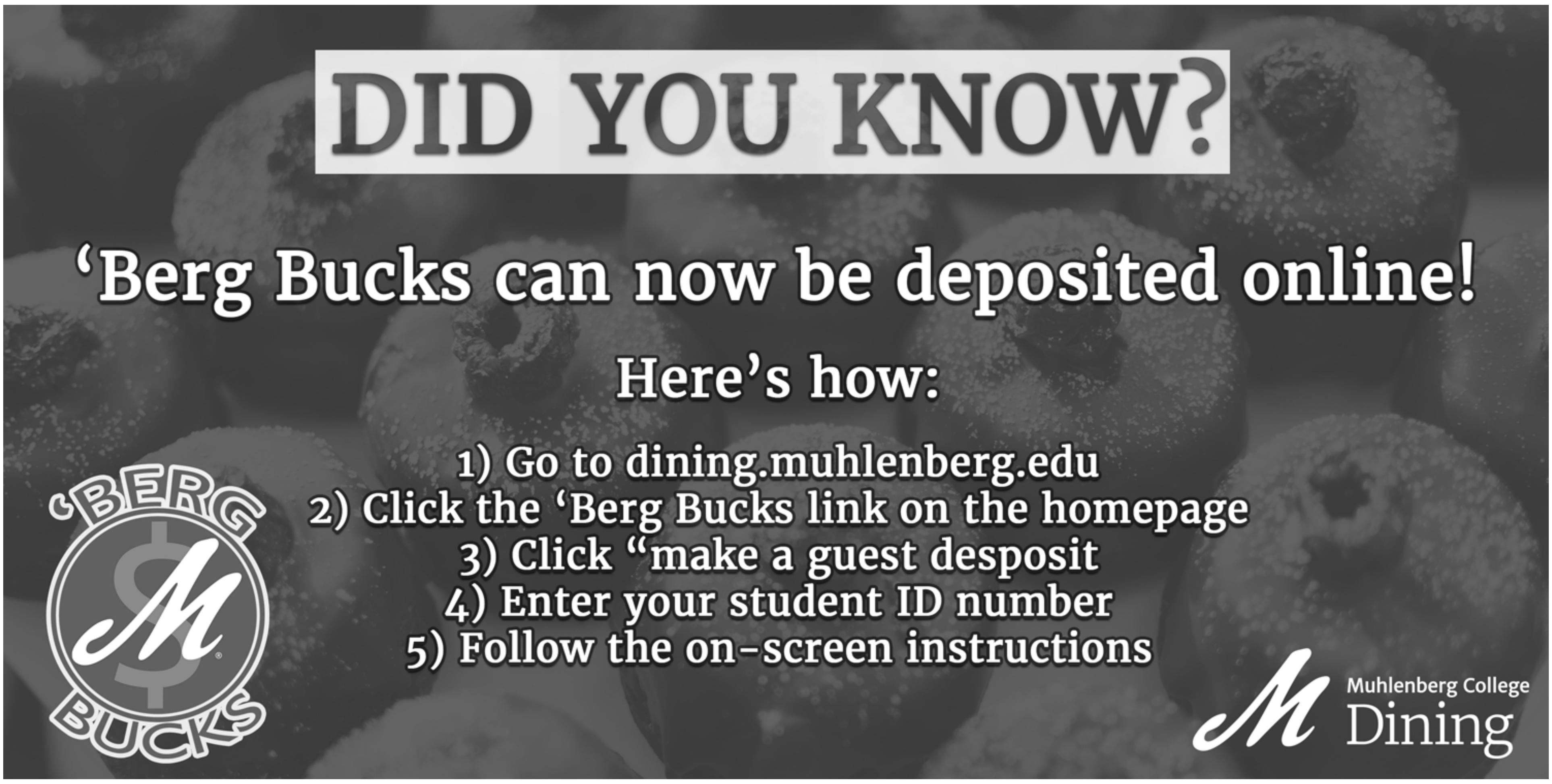
02/02/2022
Taylor Hall (Kathryn): Report to transport student to hospital.

02/03/2022
Benfer Hall Lot: Report of keys locked in vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully retrieved keys.

02/04/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of items dropped off for Human Resources, items placed in lost and found locker.
Gordon & 22nd Streets: Report to assist outside agency regarding alcohol violations, no further incident.
Seegers Union: Report of suspicious person, area checked, individual could not be located.

02/05/2022
On Campus Location: Report of injured employee, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported individual to hospital.

02/06/2022
Leh Street: Report of disorderly conduct, area checked, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident.
East Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
East Hall: Report of suspicious person, area checked, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Walson Hall: Report of suspicious activity, upon arrival nothing could be found, no further incident.
Life Sports Center: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.



DID YOU KNOW?

'Berg Bucks can now be deposited online!

Here's how:

1) Go to dining.muhlenberg.edu
2) Click the 'Berg Bucks link on the homepage
3) Click "make a guest desposit
4) Enter your student ID number
5) Follow the on-screen instructions

'BERG BUCKS

Muhlenberg College Dining

'BERG UNMASKED

Outrage over improper masking erupts on Instagram

By Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

The most recent masking update came on Feb. 5 from Allison Williams, dean of students, “We are still in the orange phase, and as such, I expect masks to be worn properly at all times indoors.” The orange phase states, “Masks are required indoors at all times for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. Masks can only be removed while actively eating/drinking, during final performances and in alignment with Centennial Conference and NCAA guidelines. Masking may be required in the residential properties.” Masks are required in residence halls. This reminder came after a post was shared to the @muhl_sports account on Instagram. The photo was of the student section of a wrestling match. The comment tagged @diginmules and identified the football team’s Instagram as the students in attendance. Most notably in the photo, many students are shown wearing their masks improperly, demonstrated by visibly open mouths and screams of celebration.

In a previous masking update from Williams on Jan. 26, she states, “I do not want to see mask compliance/enforcement become a bigger issue on campus.” Although this post initially received no backlash or response from students, comments started appearing after three days, when a student reposted the photo to their Instagram story. The story tagged the College directly, “@muhlenbergcollege how is this acceptable? When you say that you care and are making sure people follow guidelines, is this what that looks like? Ridiculous and disgusting. Athletes are not above all.”

The comment section that followed began to grow, as it gained more and more attention from outraged students. They shared their disdain for not only the football team pictured, but the generalized athletic community on campus. One comment questions, “Does wearing my mask under my mouth count as correctly wearing a mask?” Another points the blame at the Life Sports Center (LSC), “What happens in the LSC stays in the LSC.”

“I noticed the picture and couldn’t believe that an Instagram page associated with Muhlenberg would make such a stark error and post a photo with a dozen people not following our masking policy. It’s honestly more embarrassing for the College than anything else. A lot of the comments were on the more serious side, so mine was more of a lighthearted joke that still conveyed my point of view,” stated Olivia Tebsherany ‘23, whose comment, “Guys athletes literally can’t get COVID. Just gonorrhea,” on the aforementioned post gained some traction. “Quite honestly, I have come to expect this behavior from Muhlenberg athletes as a collective (obviously, there are exceptions, as there would be with any group on campus). While my comment was a bit of a joking dig at them, I was more surprised by the fact that a Muhlenberg account had the audacity to post that photo as opposed to being surprised by the improper mask-wearing by the athletes.”

Another comment expressed, “Y’all complain about the length of the pandemic but won′t do what’s necessary in order to end it.” What were the results of these concerned cries? In a statement by the College on Instagram, @muhlenbergcollege responded, “At the beginning of the winter season, we informed everyone that if masking guidelines could not be followed that it could jeopardize in-person attendance at competitions.”

The statement also mentions, “Muhlenberg values open discourse and we remind everyone posting comments to remain respectful of one another.” The post with the comments that first began this discussion has since been removed. On the Instagram post where the College made the statement, the comments have been disabled.

Following the statement, an Instagram account was created called @berg.naked.noses claiming the goal of “Exposing Berg’s most ignorant students!” with their first post’s caption calling for action: “Join us as we fight to promote proper mask wearing.” This account stems from students’ concerns about proper masking, and the five posts feature three students captured with their masks down, and two student sections in the LSC.

The use of Instagram to voice students’ concerns allowed this account to gain immediate attention with the comment sections encouraging the same call-outs and pile-ons from the original @muhl_sports post. Students flocked to this outlet in direct defiance of the College’s request to remain respectful. The account claimed to expose students who defy the masking policy, while the comment section fostered hostility between students, specifically individuals whose pictures were featured.

On the last post, one commenter sparked debate about how to hold others accountable, “There are better ways to demonstrate that mandates aren’t working to Muhlenberg without directly attacking/humiliating people you don’t know in a public forum.” The Instagram account was deleted by the morning of Feb. 8.

Eden Kaufman ’23 commented about this account, “The [@muhl_sports] post was left up for far too long, and in that time the anonymous account [@berg.naked.noses] had free range to bully people… And then once it was taken down, the College put up a statement but disabled their comments, so that no one could express their discontent with the College’s handling of the situation. I understand that they probably didn’t want to cause another fight in the comments, but it’s important that student voices are heard, and they should be able to manage their own Instagram comments to make it a safe environment.”

The frustration is clear amongst students and the debate over masking sparked hostility online. On a post of the women’s basketball team from Feb. 8, a student asks, “So there is an admin behind this account seeing all of the bullying happening on your last post. That’s fun. Thanks for doing something to stop it.” This comment was followed by an anonymous user responding, “You are asking to be bullied more.”

In a statement issued to The Weekly, Lynn Tubman, director of athletics, and Megan Patruno, associate director of athletics, said, “Mask compliance among those in attendance - students, Muhlenberg fans, opposing team fans, and general Allentown community members - is a challenge, for sure. We believe the presence of ESP Security this semester to assist us in enforcing mask compliance has allowed us to address masking concerns in a more timely manner and overall mask compliance has improved. Yes, on occasion we have been met with resistance and some downright rude and belligerent people. People have been removed from our facilities. Those individuals have never been students. For the most part, we have found that when we notice masks not properly worn by the fans in attendance in games and we remind them to please fix the situation, they always do. So we continue to make announcements over the PA system and continue to circle the gym to remind spectators to pull up their masks.”

Williams’ email sent to the student body on Feb. 8 following the Instagram controversy opens with, “I am dismayed at what occurred over social media in the past 24 hours. First and foremost, I believe that when we make mistakes or have errors in judgment, it is our responsibility to take ownership for our actions. In this case, the college made a mistake and posted a picture that was intended to share the excitement of the men’s wrestling match on the Mule Sports Instagram account. However, it clearly depicts students not properly wearing their masks. I apologize on behalf of the college for that error in judgment. We will do better.”

She addresses the concerns about the first post of the students wearing their masks improperly, “Let me be clear, civil discourse, differences of opinion, and particularly criticism of the college on social media are all fair and protected speech and should not be removed. However, when a College-owned social media account begins receiving comments from students using objectively offensive language toward one another or harassing one another, that crosses the line of free speech and we have an obligation to remove the post.”

Tebsherany comments on the statement, “Their statement with the comments turned off is half-hearted, and Dean Williams’ email is, frankly, a joke. Referring to social media as the ‘most concerning’ aspect of the situation, rather than the lack of proper mask-wearing and @muhl_sports’ blatant idiocy in posting it, is concerning in itself. I don’t need to be told to ‘call in’ at the age of twenty in a condescending email. I can ‘call out’ whoever I want as long as I am not directly harming anyone—and that includes Muhlenberg administration.”

There are two open sessions discussing masks enforcement on Friday, Feb. 11 at 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The location has not yet been announced.

SGA has exciting plans for 2022

By Matthew Klinger
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) has a busy spring semester planned. Zaire Carter '22, SGA president, said, "As always, we are going to continue to support students, clubs [and] organizations and tackle issues facing the student body." This includes helping students create new clubs, financing current clubs on campus and making sure they get the necessary resources to attend off-campus events and conferences.

The SGA also has new initiatives that they are working to implement. One of the larger changes that they are trying to establish is an expansion to mental health initiatives that ensure that students who are having mental health crises are able to get the help they need and access to resources. "This was something we found that students were particularly passionate about given the recent spike in mental health crises around campus last semester. It is clear to me and to my entire SGA administration that students want more changes to mental health, and while last semester's R&R Day was a step in the right direction, there is always more that needs to be done. I'm hopeful that these policy discussions will yield effective changes to the way mental health is dealt with on campus," Carter said.

Students are excited to see these new changes be implemented on campus. Ian Clark '25 said, "I think it's very good that they are expanding the care available through mental health services. As someone who recently started using them, I specifically found an issue with the after hours and weekend service line. But, if they are taking steps to fix it and make it better, then that is a very good sign of positive change here at Muhlenberg and I am all here for it."

Nate Reimer '24 agreed with that sentiment, saying, "Mental health is a real struggle that people have, so it's good that they are working to expand those resources, especially with the hardships of these last two years."

Some exciting events that are planned include a Mule-Mitzvah and Spring Wrap-Up. In addition to having events run by the SGA, the campus engagement committee is also working to partner with other groups on campus. For the month of February, they are working with the Office of Multicultural Life and Africana Studies to have Black History Month events. Later in the semester there will be a student-run drag show and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) sponsored diversity chair dinner to connect all of the DEI chairs across campus and help create a support network for those in this field.

Photo courtesy of Ben Eber '23

The members of the 2021-2022 Student Government Association .

The last major event that Carter highlighted was the April SGA election in "which all students can vote… for every position on SGA." Previously, the voting process for the executive board was done internally, but now voting is open to the entire campus. "I only say this because this is a new change that was made to SGA from spring 2021. And while I was a major proponent for these changes, it was really the voices of the student body that created this change. That is why it is important to vote and to show up. As I said in my presidential election, decisions are made by those who show up" said Carter.

Changes have also been made to laundry processes on campus. This will make it easier for students to do their laundry in various residence halls and off-campus properties. After the student laundry survey results from last semester came back, it was found that there was a desire for card readers in MILE property laundry rooms. "Given this information and how accessibility is a central part to our approach with laundry, SGA acted quickly to pay for and install card readers in all of the MILE areas for students," Carter said.

Ky Dates '22 responded to these changes saying, "For the most part, I think the addition of card readers is helpful for MILE residents. It provides accessibility, given that the only quarter machine is in prosser and there is no longer an ATM on campus. However, this feels like a temporary accommodation and improvement, as the ideal solution is removing any fee for laundry in the machines or tuition costs to provide intersectional accessibility for MILE residents." Carter addressed the desire for free laundry, saying, "The truth of the matter is that laundry, no matter how you go about it, is not going to be 'free.' It's either going to cost students and families money or the College money."

Tim Clarke comments on digital learning

By Gabi Hirshfield
Staff Writer

Throughout the ongoing pandemic, tremendous strain has been placed on the education system. Professors who have spent their entire careers teaching in a classroom had to shift to being completely online and students who have spent most of their lives in lecture halls and in-person seminars switched to spending their days staring at a screen. Technology has proven to be extremely useful not only in education, but in all spheres of life during the pandemic.

Students and faculty have become increasingly aware of all sorts of technological resources. Tim Clarke, whose current role here began in 2016, had been a part of the Muhlenberg community for years before the pandemic. Clarke is a member of the Digital Learning Group, his official title is senior instructional design consultant. The Digital Learning Group functions as a drop-in center on the B-level of Trexler Library to help students, faculty and staff learn how to use different digital tools in an academic context. There are also digital learning assistants, who are students who have received extensive training in digital tools.

photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Tim Clarke is a senior instructional design consultant, who helps the 'Berg community use digital tools in academica.

Clarke described his role in the Digital Learning Group saying, "Part of my job is to help faculty as a consultant to imagine how to… incorporate things like blogs, digital maps, podcasts, or different ways that students can engage with material and demonstrate their understanding that don't just involve paper and pen."

Clarke works in an inclusive way, acknowledging that all people have different levels of experience with technology. He stated, "I think it's really a matter of practice and exposure, on the one hand, but also understanding why. I think that a lot of folks get presented with a piece of software or a piece of electronic equipment and that the expectation is stated, but the why is withheld."

The complete shift to digital learning in spring 2020 was a stark one, and Clarke described this change from his perspective saying, "I think that we've asked a lot of our faculty, but the preparation that we had really happened rather quickly. I'm trying to also be as empathetic to those folks who have had to adapt very quickly under pretty unreal circumstances, who have developed a lifetime of craft in the classroom, and have now been asked to do something that is pretty different from what they've honed and developed over a long time."

Clarke talked about how he is always there for students or faculty who are experiencing difficulty with the transition to increased digital learning. He also described how even though he does help with technology, he is primarily a designer and is there to help to design courses in any sense, not just in a technological context. Before there are conversations about specific technological resources, Clarke likes to facilitate conversations about the course as a whole, to get a complete view of the class.

The shift to digital learning has left lasting impacts on education, something that Clarke recognized saying, "The opportunity for flexibility around learning and instruction, I don't think will ever leave us. I think that ultimately only opens up access to higher education." In terms of classroom resources, he stated that, "There's a whole other set of techniques that people can bring to their instruction."

Continuing to speak on the pandemic in a larger context, Clarke described something he has learned from our technological experience during the pandemic saying, "What I've seen during the pandemic is affirming, in some ways, because when people are thoughtful, and they do the work, the ability to build and sustain communities online is real. I wonder what COVID-19 would have felt like if it had been [in 1998] instead of in 2019. The isolation that we would have felt, having been physically distant from one another, without modern information technology, would have been profoundly different."

"It's so important that all artists remain obedient to their craft and surrender to it whenever it calls."
- Lester Mayers

Black History Month celebration begins with love

By Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant

Photo by Keanna Pena '25

Lester Mayers (center), Keturah Jordan (right) and Matt Carvin (left) reciting their works

"Love Letters with Lester," the College's first Black History Month event of 2022, took place in the Great Room on Feb. 3. The night began with two original poems performed by AnnaMaria Fernandez '24, and was followed by an hour-long performance by Lester Mayers and a Q&A. Mayers' performance was a mixture of music, poetry, and meditation. Interwoven with his poems about love, being black and queer, Mayers also had Matt Carvin accompany him on piano and Keturah Jordan sing melodies which in turn created a safe and entrancing atmosphere.

Mustafa Hall '23 commented, "I absolutely loved this event. I think this event really encapsulated the true power of centering queerness within Blackness."

Mayers' poems varied from topic to topic, but the central theme was to love yourself. Hall said, "Throughout the show, I felt mesmerized, inspired, and very emotional. Lester was truly, truly special." At one point Mayers had the audience close their eyes, relax and envision their future. He wanted people to envision loving themselves in the moment, when they were 25 and when they are old and wrinkly. He wanted his audience to understand that the most important kind of love was self-love.

Hall said, "I think what will stay with me the most is the uniqueness of his entire performance. He was able to blend poetry, music, and uplifting messages to form this powerful experience."

As for Hailey Coleman '23, who organized the event, she said, "I think something that will stay with me is that you have to be real and check in with yourself all the time. Those small check-ins will let you know what you need spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. That's important because that quick check-in can make or break your day, week or even year. Know what you need for yourself."

She added that the event "made me feel seen. I think so often we have to work so hard on this campus to be seen by our peers so to be seen for just being was something we don't get often on Muhlenberg's campus." Also, "I loved how the pieces Lester Mayers performed resonated with all the students that attended. I feel like he touched so many different parts of our Blackness yet talked about our shared experience."

In the Q&A facilitated by Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and Africana Studies, students expressed their awe and admiration of such a transparent and uplifting performance.

Coleman said, "I think this event set an amazing tone for the rest of Black History Month. Our goal overall is to uplift Black people and acknowledge [their] accomplishments. We would love for every Black person in our community and everyone else to finish this month being proud of who they are and where they come from. Lester Mayers started us off strong to get this goal accomplished." Hall agreed, saying that "I think this event sets a tone of understanding, listening, and healing when it comes to the rest of the month."

Coleman also wanted to thank "BSA, the Office of Multicultural Life, the Africana studies program, Ms. Robin [Riley-Casey], Dr. Kucik and everyone who came out for all their help, love and support. I couldn't have done any of this by myself."

If you would like to know more about Lester Mayers, his website is Lestermayers.com. His Instagram and Twitter are @ mayerslester_

The next Black History Month event is Feb. 10 at 7 pm in the Event Space, where there will be a showing of *Judas and the Black Messiah*.

Understanding the current situation for MILA courses

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

photo by Rebecca Clark '23

Students meet here, at the Office of Global Education, to discuss their study abroad plans.

Study abroad programs are an exciting way for students to engage with global environments, so long as students can afford to spend an entire semester away from campus. Muhlenberg College offers a solution for students: Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad (MILA) courses. These courses allow for students to reside on campus for the fall or spring semester and then spend time in a location that their class studies.

Three of the MILA courses offered this semester are a showcase of Ireland, another highlights the intersection of religion and ecology in Japan and the last is focused on the Potomac region of the U.S. The MILA courses operate like traditional courses with weekly sessions, but a multi-week trip at the end as well.

Ashley Hilary '22 is participating in the Ireland MILA to learn more about the theatrical and creative writing elements of the country. Hilary described, "It's creative writing and theater in Ireland – we're examining plays and texts as inspiration for our own work as well as studying the history of the places we're traveling to. In Ireland, we'll do a lot of writing projects and then eventually perform a poem by W.B. Yeats!"

The course is taught by two professors of the college, Linda Miller, director of creative writing, and Brendon Votipka, adjunct professor of English. The course is adapting to the current omicron variant of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hilary continued, "Brendon has also moved some of his classes over Zoom so everyone feels a little more comfortable....With omicron we haven't really spoken about what that means for the future of the trip but until then I'm going to matter what!"

Hannah Michelson '22, another student in the Ireland MILA, is excited for the course and the combination of theatrical and creativing writing elements. Some of the participating students were originally supposed to participate in the trip when the class ran before the pandemic, such as Hilary. Michelson described how "the same class was supposed to go to Ireland and because of COVID they never got to go," but some of these students have joined this course to have the Ireland trip and the course in a unique manner.

See **MILA** page 7

'Berg entrepreneurs in the pandemic

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

The isolation of the pandemic inspired a number of artistic and business-minded Muhlenberg students to start their own small businesses, with a number of these businesses taking off across the school's social landscape, and evolving and growing from hobbies into a deep dive into beginner entrepreneurship.

"I started crocheting in March of 2020! It was a quarantine hobby turned obsession," says Chrissy Nagrowski '22, who founded a handmade clothing business called 'Hooked On Chrissy.' "I spent literally every waking minute doing it, just making whatever I could. It got to the point where I had so much stuff that I really didn't want so I decided to start selling it."

Naturally, creators were eager to take to social media to spread the word, and to try to connect people with their products. Nagrowski, in reference to their own business's social media presence, continued, "My sister and I run the page and it's truly a hoot. The target audience is definitely fellow 18-24 year olds for sure. I do get the occasional inquiry from my mom's friends, but mostly peers."

Nagrowski isn't the only creator whose handmade art is stunning Muhlenberg students. Ashley Hilary '22, founded "Earrings By Ashley," now titled "chasing westphalia" in the 2019-2020 school year, and has been ecstatic to see its following expand and grow throughout the lockdown.

"It started as a little project at Muhlenberg my sophomore year because I didn't have a job and a few people asked for commissions," explained Hilary. "People were really excited about the earrings so I just kept on making them! It was really nice and gave me a productive purpose outside of school."

According to Hilary, "chasing westphalia" has an ever-changing target audience, which, according to sales, has statistically included queer creators and shoppers between 16 to 30 years of age.

These creators are looking to the future with high hopes for their business prospects, each with their own set of plans for the spring 2022 semester. Hilary is keen on "trying to finish at least one more collection online and do two In person art sales." As for Nagrowski, the ideal move is to "just keep taking custom orders! I am super happy to be selling a large amount of stock at the student art sale on the 12th in Seegers [Union]...[and] I just love taking custom orders and working with people to make exactly what they want! I just like to make enough money to fill my gas tank to go to JoAnn's, and to see my friends rock some handmade art!"

Photo courtesy of Ashley Hilary '22

Here are some of Ashley Hilary's creations. See more on @chasingwestphalia on Instagram.

All in all, the Muhlenberg community has proven resilient in its effort to create a nurturing community where initiatives for student creativity are able to blossom and thrive to their fullest potentials.

"I am so lucky to have friends who just love everything I make," says Nagrowski. "I do not really keep as much stock as I used to. I almost always just do custom orders...about five at a time, and that is way more fun for me than big stock drops."

Artist spotlight on Bridget Wiggan

By Ian Clark
Assistant A&C Editor

The Muhlenberg theatre and dance department is home to various mainstage productions throughout the year, with three productions last semester: "En el Tiempo de las Mariposas," "Call Me By Any Other Name" and "The Saint Plays." This semester plans to have a wide variety of productions and the first mainstage piece to premiere this semester is "Miss You Like Hell," a musical about the story of a mother and daughter and their complicated relationship. The musical highlights the immigration struggles for parents and families in America as well as other marginalized groups, such as the couple of Mo and Higgins and the character Pearl. The heart of the story, however, is the dynamic between the mother and daughter duo, Beatriz and Olivia.

Beatriz is brought to life by Bridget Wiggan '23 under the direction of Jamie McKittrick, visiting assistant professor of theatre. Wiggan describes her experience with McKittrick's direction saying, "Jamie has been focused on fostering collaboration, but even more so than that, she has focused on creating a safe space where, even though there's an inherent hierarchy, our needs/concerns are still given space to be addressed." Wiggan continues, describing the challenges brought along with the role of Beatriz. The role represents a story and experience she doesn't know herself, she is able to find pieces of herself within the character.

"There are parts of Beatriz's experience that I will never truly understand-- I'm not a Mexican immigrant and I don't know what it's like to have to fight to justify my existence in America. But the feeling that the justice system is constantly working against you, even when you're following all the 'rules' is a notion that I grapple with often, so the frustration and anger she feels throughout the show because of that is reflective of my own; in those moments, bits of myself bleed through."

Wiggan's past works include the "La Maestra" studio production in her freshman year, the show "MAGIC" her sophomore year and most recently "Call Me By Any Other Name... Just as Sweet" last semester. She reflects on her past experiences, "I've gotten to work with a lot of directors at the College in different capacities, which has allowed me to learn different directorial styles. Each interaction ... has helped me to learn what kind of actor I am and what kind of actor I want to be."

As omicron rapidly shifts the playing field campus-wide, "Miss You," along with other Muhlenberg theatre and dance productions, are no exceptions. Wiggan describes the process with "Miss You" as faster than normal shows saying that "Jamie has been very focused on front-loading the process-- getting the show up on its feet as soon as possible and then going back to flesh it out further, which is a very smart approach considering ... cast members or the production team could contract COVID at any time."

Olivia is Beatriz's daughter in the piece and Marina Rinkunas '25 captures the spirit of the reluctant yet hopeful character. Rinkunas stated, "Working with [Wiggan] is effortless, I feel like we connect so well. It's very useful in our scenes as Olivia and Beatriz, since they go through this beautiful journey of family love, as well as self-love. It is very important to me to have a partner whom I can trust."

Wiggan also speaks fondly of the bond she has formed with Rinkunas, commenting on it as one of her favorite parts of the show so far, not only with her co-star but the cast as a whole; "A lot of the process has been dedicated to building our relationship, as it's integral to the show, so we've spent a lot of time together, and this gave me an opportunity to get to work with a person who I, otherwise, might not have gotten the chance to know. "

Zaire Carter '22, another cast member of "Miss You Like Hell" said, "She's phenomenal. Bridget's performance as Beatriz is not only breathtaking but is awe-inspiring to watch. I am honored to be a cast member and to be able to work with her. Her work ethic and her ability to make the story come to life is a unique quality that she possesses and a true and rare gift. It has been an honor to work with her in 'Miss You Like Hell.'"

See Wiggan, Rinkunas and the incredibly talented Muhlenberg ensemble of students in "Miss You Like Hell" Feb. 24 through Feb. 27 at the Baker Theatre in the Center for the Arts. You can buy tickets now on the Muhlenberg theatre and dance webpage or at the box office in the Trexler Pavilion. The piece is for the Muhlenberg community to enjoy and also reflect on the power of family love and the struggles and pain caused by the immigration policies in America.

Photo courtesy of @bergcoda

Bridget Wiggan '23 will star in the upcoming musical, "Miss You Like Hell," Feb. 24-27.

FROM **QUARANTINE** PAGE 1

proving," Forman commented.

Meals were delivered to her apartment accordingly. "At 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM everyday, lunch and dinner were dropped off at our door," Forman explained. "Breakfast was given with dinner. We requested what we wanted from the Wood Dining Commons menu the day before and usually got what we requested."

In terms of academics, Forman felt that, for the most part, professors were accommodating about missing class.

"Most of my professors have been accommodating, however, some of the accommodations still felt like I was getting unfair treatment because I had to miss class," Forman said. "I understand that finding ways for students to participate in hands-on classes is hard but we are in a pandemic, and classrooms and curriculums should be set up to have Zoom classes or hands-on replacements that are equal to the class or activity itself."

Daniella Medvedovski '24 shared similar sentiments about her experience with classes and on-campus isolation housing.

"I wish the College required professors to provide options for virtual engagement such as Zooming into lectures or recording them for isolated students to watch on their own time," Medvedovski said.

On her sixth day after testing positive, Medvedovski also received a roommate in her 22nd St. apartment without being warned ahead of time.

"To insert another student into a space where I had been living with no prior warning felt like a huge invasion of privacy," Medvedovski said. "After numerous students voiced their concerns to the dean of students office and the health center, they apologized and said they would mend the system in the future and communicate with students before giving them roommates."

The potential for an isolation roommate depends on how full isolation housing is. "If you are asymptomatic, you will not be placed with a roommate because there is always a chance your results were a false positive and we would not want to put a symptomatic roommate in that could cause the other student to become symptomatic," Williams clarified. "Again, our vaccination status is our greatest protection."

In summary: the experiences of students quarantined off campus versus on campus vary greatly in quality, with only the students on campus receiving consistent communication and resources. Reflecting on her time in off campus quarantine, the anonymous student stated that they "felt excluded... No one ever called to check in on how I was doing or to see if I was alive."

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FROM **MILA** PAGE 5

The new MILA course for this semester will hopefully remedy some of the lost opportunities of the past. Michelson also shared how Miller recently shared in class that the borders to Ireland have been opened and it is quite likely for students to travel across the pond. The same cannot be said for other programs, however.

The Japan MILA is an opportunity for students to learn more about two areas of study that may seem exclusive, but are linked together in engaging and complex manners. The two areas interlock, thanks to Kammie Takahashi, Ph.D., associate professor of religion studies and Asian studies, and Kimberly Heiman, Ph.D., senior lecturer of biology, work together to bring both perspectives to every area of the course.

"That integrative learning piece where the world is a complicated place, and there's no way to fully understand it ever, but you certainly get a better understanding when you look at it from multiple perspectives. I think that there′s a power in bringing people from different views together to explore similar content," Heiman declared.

The two professors will continue to update current students about the possibility to visit Japan with the country's borders still closed for tourism. If the travel option is not available, the professors plan to offer extracurricular activities in the local area related to the culture and elements of Japanese culture. One of these examples is the Cherry Blossom Festival in both Bethlehem and Philadelphia, along with movie nights and cooking experiences for the students to collectively learn about the cuisine and culture of Japan.

This is also the second time this Japan MILA has been offered, and with a pandemic on top, it has been a challenge. Takahashi is also heartbroken for the people and resources being utilized in Japan for the possible trip and with the possibility of having to cancel bookings for reserved hotels or other spaces.

"I′m sorry, I′m really sad if you guys can′t go, but all these people who are losing income in Japan or planning and waiting for us, and then maybe we can′t go, that′s really tearing on my heart," stated Takahashi.

One of the most definite course trips for the semester is the first domestic MILA course, the Potomac River.

"The whole course is centered around the Potomac and its people and culture. Matt Moore, Jeremy Teissere, and Linda Miller are co-teaching the course, and the three of them have been planning our trip for 2+ years. They have visited the location so many times, finding new locations and landscapes to take all of us to on the trip," said Lizzie Witek '23.

The future remains uncertain and a wide variety of factors can change in a couple of months, especially with global locations. Despite the challenges and obstacles for these courses, the professors still will expand the global knowledge and cultural understanding for students. These courses also help to enrich students′ relationship with Allentown and the 'Berg community.

"As part of the class we also have to go on short excursions to prepare us to go explore together and write about it when we go to Ireland. Last week for one of our assignments we had to go to the Allentown Farmers Market and find inspiration to write about," Michelson finalized.

The work of these MILA courses are extremely important and no matter the global location of interest, Ireland or Japan or the Potomac, the professors get to team up to create an unforgettable course.

Takahashi mentioned, "Actually, teaching this MILA and planning this MILA is my favorite thing in the whole world."

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Paige's Page

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Staff Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome back to this week's edition of Paige's Page. This week something is in the air—and it may or may not be COVID (so stay safe out there)—but also LOVE! Valentine's Day is just around the corner; so, if you have that special someone, I hope you are getting ready for a lovely February 14th. But if you are like me and you are single for the 21st Valentine's Day in a row, I'm sure you are just so excited to see all of these happy couples clogging your Instagram feed while you wait patiently to buy all of the discount chocolate your heart desires on the 15th. All jokes aside, even as a single person, I like Valentine's Day. I'm a hopeless romantic that loves the color pink and craves the nostalgia of an elementary school brown paper bag filled to the brim with cheesy valentines. I have a fun and festive outfit picked out… and no one on Muhlenberg's campus is ready. This week's questions are for everyone, those with a valentine and those without one because this is an equal opportunity advice column. Let's get into these questions.

Hey, Paige! What do I get a new partner for Valentine's Day?

Hi, bestie, love this question! I think with a new partner you need to tread lightly when it comes to gift-giving. I think that when you are just starting a new relationship with someone, especially right now when there is so much pressure on romance and spontaneity, it can place an unrealistic expectation on both partners to get the best gift or be the best partner on a day that is meant to celebrate your feelings for one another. I would steer clear of getting something super cliché because I hate that, but your partner may not. I think more personal and meaningful gifts are better, like flowers, or your partner's favorite candy/snack, and maybe something they have been talking about with you. My favorite gifts to get are experiences. Take them to dinner, do a fun activity with them, plan a romantic night in or show them you care with your actions. I am sure they will appreciate whatever you do so don't stress about something like this. It's just some random day in February.

Hi, Paige! I'm 20 years old and I've never kissed anyone and society makes me feel weird about that. I know that this is not necessarily a bad thing, but I can't help feeling like I am behind. How can I stop feeling weird about this?

Hey, bestie! Thank you so much for being so vulnerable by asking this question. I think that you are right. We are told as kids that by college we should be further along in our romantic and sexual experience than many people are. We are made to feel slower or underdeveloped because we may not know how to navigate college hookup culture, nor do many of us truly want to. All of that is to say you are not alone and you are not weird for having never kissed anyone. Some people make this out to be some small thing, but—to some— firsts are so important to human development, and seeing things like this as a milestone can stop you from exploring new things because breaking out of your comfort zone is scary and hard. I think the most important thing to recognize is that you are not the only person that is 20 and has not had this experience. Also being vulnerable in any capacity with another person who you may not know or be comfortable with is extremely difficult, and you have all of the time in the world. Do not rush yourself. Wait until you are comfortable and the person you are with makes you feel comfortable, and that is true with everything, whether romantically, sexually or even socially. You can take risks and try new things but do it because you want to and not because you feel like you have to. There is no rush, go easy on yourself.

Hi Paige, I like my friend but I think I accidentally friend-zoned him. He calls me bro casually. I can tell that there is something there and I know he can too but I don't know if he will ever make a move. What do I do?

Hey, bestie! This is so relatable, wow. Before I get into answering this question I would like to make a PSA to the men of Muhlenberg College: STOP CALLING PEOPLE THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BRO/DUDE, etc. IT'S SO CONFUSING! This is a self call out also because "bestie" just so happens to transcend this column… Alright, now that that is out of the way, back to the question. I am a very assertive person so usually if I am interested in someone, I think they know (for the most part), and if you enjoy communicating your feelings with people, just tell him you like him. If you are not, you can wait it out, and maybe he will surprise you and tell you how he feels. I would like to think it's not that difficult to get out of the friendzone, and I am yet to be correct about that, but the worst thing that can happen is that he doesn't feel the same way… which will hurt… a lot. And then you can move on. But I think it is always worse to not try because then you will never know how he feels, and you could be missing out on something really great.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio: @paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree @bergweekly.

Humanity: the ancient science

By Faith Bugman
Contributing Writer

In my freshman year of high school, I took a two-year-long literature and history class. As I wrote my college applications during my junior year, I realized this course had taught me how to think and form true beliefs for myself.

It was peacefully gratifying. I became more secure in nearly all of my thoughts, opinions and questions. Perhaps most importantly, it opened my mind to how expansive knowledge is in this world.

I had two remarkably different teachers for the course: one quick-witted, religious, Republican bookworm (who I, remarkably, was very close with), and one quiet-but-deadly, atheist, Democratic wrestling coach, with an interesting passion for history. Both were equally genius, and they insisted on disagreeing with one another.

Nearly three years later, I was sitting in my first philosophy class (phenomenology with Professor Edward Lenzo) when I had an epiphany. The two comedically juxtaposed high school teachers had attempted to teach me how to reasonably philosophize my interactions with the world and its knowledge. Their method of teaching insisted that when looking at anything, we acknowledge all angles, profiles and modalities that exist. There are questions to be asked and possible answers to be given, and they must be. This was what my current philosophy class was centered around.

Afterward, I went to a writing class that had us look at the ethics and accuracy of war-time journalism, and then biology, where we read an article about the horribly racist men who founded the natural sciences.

In each situation, the only correct thing to do was to look at the whole picture: an essential part of philosophy, which tries to decipher what makes things as they [truly] are and our relation to that.

Were I to never relate chemistry and biology, I would never get a truly complete understanding of how our bodies, or even life, operate, for instance.

But by relating those two, and perhaps other partial sciences, a deep understanding develops, and I can nearly picture how a [bodily] movement occurs.

The same can be said for any field of study. Learning more about how to be impartial, holistic and neutralize my own predispositions, allowed me to develop a more complete and inclusive world of knowledge. Without philosophy, it is very easy to view a world in boxes where most subjects do not overlap.

In a world seemingly insistent on inclusiveness and truth, we have a tendency to hide, pick and choose.

Philosophy allows everyone's experience to be valid, and phenomenology necessitates these experiences as part of the world. Phenomenology is a way of doing philosophy that attempts to encapsulate the diversity of human experience. Both foster revival of that which has been lost with all that has now been found.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Internationally Homeless: Climate Change's Unprotected Victims

By Ayden Levine
Staff Writer

Up to 200 million people internationally will be displaced due to climate change by the year 2050.

As the temperature on Earth increases, so does the frequency of heatwaves, precipitation, tornado activity, flooding and drought. This increase in the occurrence and scale of devastating weather patterns has destroyed many areas worldwide and led to a mass displacement of people. These people are called climate refugees. Data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center show that approximately 22.7 million people are displaced every year. And yet, it feels like no one knows anything about this tragedy. Climate refugees are unspoken victims of the climate crisis and it is imperative that global action needs to be taken to support and protect climate refugees.

Climate change is a human rights issue. An estimated 41 people per minute across the globe are forced to flee their homes due to the effects of climate change. Rises in temperature and sea level can lead to food and water insecurity, and deadly weather patterns can level entire towns. At the end of 2020, around 7 million people were living in displacement due to climate change-related natural disasters.

The Migration Data Portal reports that, "The top 5 countries with the highest number of internally displaced persons due to disasters were Afghanistan (1.1 million); India (929,000); Pakistan (806,000); Ethiopia (633,000), and Sudan (454,000)." In the past year, displacement due to climate change was the highest it has been in a decade. Out of the 30.7 million new displacements in 2020, more than 98 percent were due to weather-related disasters. China (5.1 million), Philippines (4.4 million), Bangladesh (4.4 million), India (3.9 million) and the United States (1.7 million) made up 60 percent of these displacements.

The effects of climate change across the globe are unequal. Climate change disproportionately affects the impoverished, disadvantaged, marginalized, and disenfranchised people of the world, when they had very little to do with contributing to climate change in the first place. As Stacey Budd notes, "Around 50 percent of all carbon emissions are emitted by the richest 10 percent of the world's population. Yet global warming is making climate change refugees of the world's poorest... developing nations host 86 percent of all recognised refugees."

Additionally, while the world's least developed nations account for only 1 percent of global emissions, they have endured 99 percent of the deaths from climate disasters.

> **″ No one is immune from the impact [of climate change].″**

In a statement from Oxfam, ″No one is immune from the impact [of climate change] but the world's poorest are paying the heaviest price despite contributing least emissions as they battle floods, famines and cyclones.″ Even countries or individuals who are not in extreme poverty are at risk of being devastated by climate change. Often in the aftermath of a disaster when countries are working to rebuild and heal, they are hit with another event, causing them to fall into a poverty trap.

Climate refugees and countries that are on the brink of total destruction are in dire need of support. Mohamed Nasheed, the Former President of the Maldives pleads, "We are just 1.5 metre[s] over sea level and anything over that, any rise in sea level – anything near that – would basically wipe off the Maldives... We have a right to live."

Unfortunately, climate refugees are not recognized under international refugee law, therefore they do not qualify for protection. There are many things that nations globally need to commit to: drastically reducing our global emissions, outlining protections for climate refugees, and creating a plan for current and future climate refugees. But what can we as individuals do to start helping heal the damage we caused the Earth and our fellow human beings? According to Mikaela Raphael, three ways we can help are supporting refugee-led organizations, strengthening resilience through indigenous leadership, and preparing our cities for refugees. Urban refugees works with refugee-led organizations in 40 countries in the Global South and advocates for them with policy-makers at the regional and UN level. Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT), Inc. works to build self-reliant climate resilience in communities in the Philippines. They adapt their plans to each area they work in to make them more sustainable over time. Tzome Ixuk offers shelter to women fleeing Central America. They look after these women and train them to understand their rights through self-care and security workshops. These organizations and much more help protect and strengthen refugee communities across the globe.

The international anti-refugee and anti-climate change rhetoric has given our world's richest nations alibis for not helping house climate refugees and for not addressing their direct role in climate change. Suong Vong writes that, "While there has been increasing global resolve to combat the problem of climate change over time, most nations lack the political will or incentive to develop a plan to protect refugees impacted by climate change, particularly if the issue does not appear to have a direct effect on them, and especially given the already high numbers of refugees created by war, conflict, and terrorism."

Understanding that climate change has so many more devastating effects rather than "just getting a bit warmer" is a huge step in changing perceptions of climate change worldwide. Reading pieces like this one and educating yourself on the different facets of climate change is a great way to start. The next step is working to reframe perceptions of climate change in those around you and calling your government representatives to convince them to act on implementing policies to combat climate change. With enough work on the global front, we can lessen the amount of future climate refugees.

The UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, refuses to recognize climate refugees as refugees. To help be the change to protect our fellow humans worldwide call Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the current United States ambassador to the UN at 212-415-4062.

A common application for graduate school

By Aevyn Barnett
Contributing Writer

When I first decided to start applying to graduate schools, I anticipated that it would be relatively easy and painless. Boy, was I wrong. The main issue was that there is no common app for graduate school like there is for most undergraduate institutions. Instead, I filled out seven completely separate applications. One might assume, then, that the reason for having separate applications was that the different schools were requesting wildly different information than one another. Of course, that was not the case. Each application asked for the same background information (name, date of birth, contact information, etc.) and followed the same general format. Thus, I had to type out everything, such as the contact information for my recommenders, seven separate times. In fact, the only differences between the schools were the specific title of the program I was applying to and one or two school-specific questions. Even the personal statement required for each school was based on essentially the same prompt.

Why then, was I forced to spend hours uploading the same documents, such as my resume and my writing sample, and filling out the same information seven different times? One answer might be to weed out those that are not serious about graduate school. After all, the amount of time and effort I put into filling these applications out was truly a test of my determination to apply in the first place. However, I firmly believe that graduate institutions should adopt a common application, and then simply have a few supplemental questions for each individual school-- just like the common application for undergraduate institutions.

One advantage of this is that there is less risk of error. When you have to retype things multiple times, you run the risk of making more spelling or grammatical errors. Additionally, it is far easier to catch any of these possible errors when you only have to look over the information one time, as opposed to multiple times.

Another positive of having a common app is that it is easier on the other people that are involved in the process, such as recommenders. The four professors that I asked to write recommendation letters had to upload their letters separately to each of the seven schools I applied to. That is a lot of work for them, especially seeing as they have other responsibilities—like teaching—to worry about.

Applying to graduate school was a learning process, and taught me important lessons on time management, organization, and proofreading. However, I maintain that having a common application for graduate school would be less time-consuming, less inconvenient and therefore better for all involved.

The importance of intramural sports

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The field house is the center of intramural sports.

When anyone thinks of college sports, the first thought that comes to mind is the varsity athletes who step on the fields for Centennial Conference games. Collegiate athletics require an immense amount of sacrifice, so for students who want to continue to play but with a lower level of commitment, there are also the club teams who put in an incredible amount of time to play a sport they love. However, these only encompass an aspect of college sports. The other is for those who do not play on a team, but still want to compete. This is where intramural sports comes in.

For those who do not play on a team, this is where they can still play a sport to either have fun or fuel their competitiveness: “Growing up, I loved playing basketball, and I am happy to be participating in the intramural basketball league,” said Evan Alter ‘22. Most people who play intramurals do not play a varsity sport and these leagues allow them to be active and stay in shape. Also, they give students to de-stress and play a game.

While student-athletes can play intramurals, they are swayed away from participating. “Out of season, it is not encouraged for varsity athletes to participate in intramural sports due to the fear of getting injured, which could be more likely when playing with less experienced players and without the presence of officials,” said Lindsey Scott ‘22, a soccer player. However, that does not stop all of them. “All of that being said, there are definitely athletes on campus that play and greatly enjoy intramural sports,” she added.

Playing intramural sports is a way for varsity athletes to try something new that they would not have the chance to do because of the huge commitment they have during their season.

For non-student-athletes, this can be a great way to meet new people they otherwise would not have. “For me, intramurals allows me to make connections, play the sport you love, and of course have a good time,” said Mitchel Korb ‘22. “Personally, I love playing basketball and to be able to have the chance to do that in college while also making those connections has added to my college experience.”

But beyond all of those factors, the addition these leagues have on the college are not always seen, but are very much felt. These activities are important to campus life, “I feel that more non-athletes participate in intramurals, which I view as a very healthy component to our campus lifestyle,” said Scott. “I think all students appreciate the opportunity to participate in such an active and mentally healthy activity.”

The importance of intramural sports on campus cannot be overstated. For many students, these activities help students stay in shape and give people an activity that they can have fun with their friends.

“It’s great to be able to have a good time playing on a team with all of my friends. While it′s only for an hour, it allows me to forget everything I’ve got going on and just play a game I love,” Korb said.

Hark! Read all about it!

Joel Hark: student-athlete and community leader.

By Rylan Destefano
Staff Writer

There are few students that are as involved as Joel Hark ‘22. As a student-athlete, a busy schedule is quite common, but Hark can always find time for anything. His seeming addiction to extracurriculars started with being a tour guide, and then helping students with their transition to college as an orientation leader. From there, he quickly dove into multiple leadership roles including being the vice president and then president of Alpha Epsilon Pi, while helping the fraternity earn its national charter.

Additionally, Hark has helped create a safe space for athletes and their mental health. He is the founder and co-president of Head in the Game, a club which is an outlet for student athletes to discuss mental health. He does this all while working on campus as an orientation team leader, executive board member of Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team (MALT), winter sports club executive board member, rock climbing club member, and Code of Conduct student representative.

The first year of college for Hark was pretty typical. “My first year I was still in the same shell I had in high school and once I began to get involved, I began to change. The main reason I grew and changed so much was the number of communities I was a part of on campus. It truly provided the best opportunity to be a better version of myself than I was the day before.”

Involving himself in all these new clubs and the golf team caused Hark to flourish at Muhlenberg, as these experiences led to new opportunities throughout his college career. “It may seem like a lot, but I slowly joined things that presented [themself] to me via the activities fair or friends, or whether I was interested in something and reached out... to create

See **Hark!** page 11

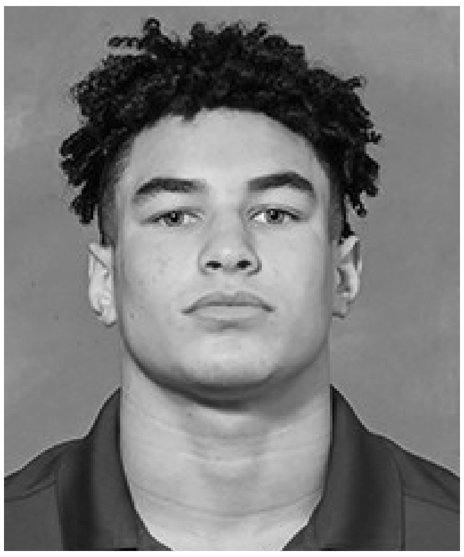
photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Two-time golf team Captain Joel Hark ′22 is following through with his swing during the 2018-2019 season.

THE ALL-WEEKLY TEAM

The All-Weekly Team is a new segment which aims to bring more attention and recognition to Muhlenberg student-athletes who have achieved athletic excellence in the past week.

BRANDON BOWLES



Brandon Bowles '25, won all of his first four wrestling matches to start his collegiate career. Bowles racked up an impressive 3-0 record on Feb. 5 to aid the Mules in going 2-1 as a team at a quad match hosted by McDaniels College.

FAITH FEZENKO

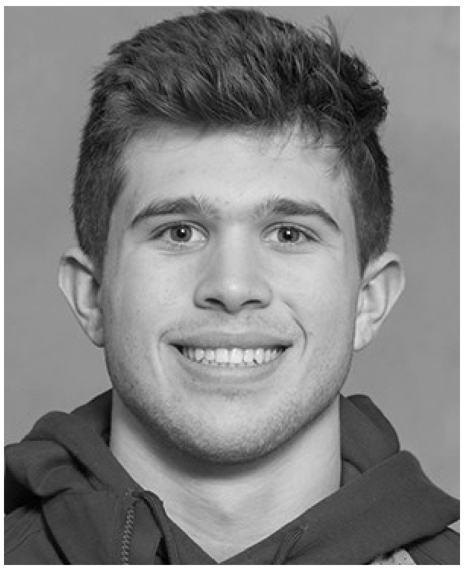
Faith Fezenko '24 broke the school record in the weight throw by tossing a 40' 1¼" at the NYC DIII Invitational on Feb. 4. Fezenko managed to break the record by almost 4 ft, 36' 7" and placed fifth overall at the Invitational.

EMILY VAUGHN

Dickinson vs Muhlenberg stats: 14pts 2stl 2ast 3reb

Emily Vaughn '25 had a standout performance this past week against Dickinson College, in an intense back and forth between the two teams. Her two steals were essential in the team's early first quarter lead.

JOHN PANNY



John Panny '23 was first in long jump at this week's NYC DIII Invitational with an attempt of 6.75m. He continues to chase the school record that he has set twice now, currently set at 6.97m.

From **Hark!** page 10

that experience."

During Hark's sophomore year Muhlenberg sent a majority of their campus home in order to ensure the safety of their students. "It was the activities that I really love to do [that] pushed me through the tough times of COVID." The passion that Hark has for all of these activities and the time he dedicates to them demonstrates just how impactful his presence is here on campus.

Hark has been one of the top golfers on the College's team for the past two years. This consistency is just another testament to Hark's work ethic and the fact that "I loved playing golf and being in a challenging academic environment."

As Hark's college career will come to an end in a few months, he has taken a lot away from his overall college experience. Through playing golf, being active in many clubs and making new friends and connections, Hark has made the most out of his entire college career. "After Muhlenberg, I hope to continue with the tools Muhlenberg provided and to stay within academia and go to earn my masters and then a Ph.D. in sport and performance psychology."

Hark's engagement on campus has provided him with an out of classroom education that will impact his opportunities and knowledge as he exits college.

Benjamin Eber '23, a close friend of Hark's, expresses just how impactful he has been not only as an active member on campus, but as a friend. "What I'm going to miss most about Joel is that he's always there to lend an ear and listen when needed, and give advice when appropriate. He really makes an effort to try and understand what you are saying and makes it so you are comfortable talking."

Eber sees Hark as someone who he can always go to for help, and he has not only helped his friends, but the entire community. "Within the community Joel has been a role model, and he has been a leader to me and many on campus. He really has made the community a great place where I could meet others and make new connections."

Teammate and close friend Adam Marcus '22, also shared kind words for Hark as he helped AEPi grow, saying, "I have had the privilege of collaborating with Joel in a variety of capacities on campus. What comes to mind most is our work together on the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity executive board, where he served as President and I served as treasurer."

Marcus continues, "Our chapter has made great strides over the past two years and ultimately became chartered this fall, in large part because of Joel's strong leadership and dedication."

Hark is grateful for the support he has received at Muhlenberg and wants to give back to the community as well, hoping that Muhlenberg continues to progress everyday as a community. "I hope that the system that Muhlenberg is a part of can grow and support those whose voices need to be heard and to create a sense of community for all students and to listen to all voices to better support the culture we all crave."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

'Berg lax shoots for success

Men's lacrosse enters preseason with lofty goals ahead.

By Tom Hiller
Sports Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Kyle Lando '22 carries the ball past a Washington College Shoremen during the 2021 season.

Scotty Wood Stadium is abundantly utilized in the fall semester, as it is the home of Mules football and the women's field hockey teams. Scotty Wood is anticipating the return of one of their favorite teams of stick-wielders, the Muhlenberg men's lacrosse team.

Having to start their season during the cold winter months, the Mules have to encounter issues that the fall sports teams rarely do: a frozen field. "Right now, the biggest struggle we are facing is our turf conditions. Our new turf was made with an environmentally friendly material as opposed to rubber. There are advantages to this especially in warmer climates, but right now the soil substance under our turf is frozen," said defenseman Kyle Lando '22. The rubble turf field was replaced back in December 2020 with a new coconut and cork infill.

The only downside to the eco-friendly field seems to be in colder environments when the ground is harder than older astroturf. "We are still able to play, and are making the most of it," said Lando. "We hope as the temperatures increase the turf conditions will become better."

Looking back at their previous spring season, the Mules have earned some deserved optimism. Although stumbling out the gates with a 0-3 start, the team successfully won five of their last six games. The only loss during that span came in a double-overtime game, to then 15th ranked Ursinus College. The Mules can cause serious damage in Centennial Conference play heading into this season.

Muhlenberg's late-season success in 2021 has not gone unnoticed. Entering the preseason, the men's lacrosse team received an honorable mention in the DIII United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) national polls.

Lando understands the importance last year had on the team heading into this season. Each signature win proved that the team is building closer to a championship climb. Lando also credits Head Coach Jake Plunket's motivation. Still, he and his teammates are just as hungry for victory, saying, "Coach Plunkett never fails to motivate us, but as a team, we have a group of guys who are committed to showing up every day to get better. We push each other in practice, and we look forward to getting to finally hit someone else on [Feb.] 12th at our first scrimmages which are home."

A Centennial Conference championship is in sight for the Mules, however, they must make it through an eight-game span of non-conference games before entering Centennial play. Not only will they not see a familiar face, Washington College, until Mar. 26, but the season opener is against Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), the defending DIII National Champions. Attackman Brett Friedman '22 acknowledged the pressure placed on the team with their week one matchup, but he and his teammates are not deterred, "What's different about this year is that we aren't only starting off with teams we aren't familiar with, we're going right into the deep end and we're playing the best team in the nation [RIT]. The country will be surprised when we give them a competitive game."

After the non-conference stretch, many of their conference rivals will most likely still be ranked. The Centennial Conference is loaded with talented teams, looking to receive a playoff bid at the season's end. "It is nice to have eight or so games to get our legs under us before our in conference games begin, which are the games that matter for making the Centennial Conference playoff," said Lando, "The top four teams make the [Centennial Conference] playoff, and usually anywhere from 1-3 of our teams get a bid in the NCAA tournament."

Both Lando and Friedman are playing in their last season as Mules, and they have the same goal written on their whiteboards; winning the Centennial Conference. Lando, continuing, "I cannot put into words what winning the CC would mean to us and all the guys who came before us to build this program from the ground up. Again, our team is at a place where the conference title is now our expectation. As a senior, I have made lifelong friendships through lacrosse and I am going to enjoy each day I have left grinding with the boys. In ten years I am not going to remember individual plays, but the memories of being with my best friends are going to last a lifetime."

As for Friedman, he echoes Lando's sentiments, saying, "A Centennial Conference championship has been a goal of mine since I was recruited, and I think we have a serious shot at hitting that goal. On a personal level, I want to see myself take a leadership position on offense and keeping the energy on a maximum volume throughout the entire season."

The Mules will first travel to RIT on Feb. 19 to defend their preseason hype.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Feb. 10 - Feb. 17

Women's Basketball
MUHLENBERG vs FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
Sat, Feb. 12 @ 2:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball
MUHLENBERG vs FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
Sat, Feb. 12 @ 4:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Women's Basketball
MUHLENBERG vs URSINUS
Wed, Feb. 16 @ 6:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball
MUHLENBERG vs URSINUS
Wed, Feb. 16 @ 8:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Professors in Prosser?

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NEWS

Recent alumni become employees.

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Office of Multicultural Life celebrates Black History Month with a screening of ″Judas and the Black Messiah.″

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Lily Magoon '24 talks about the anxiety behind sending professors emails.

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SPORTS

Wrestling team claims an individual win in otherwise disappointing Centennial Conference Championship.

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ARTISTS ASSEMBLE!

read on page 5

Various artists and performance groups join for art festival

Photo by Rachel Fuchs '23

'Berg loses two integral staff members

By Grace Oddo
Senior Staff Writer

When reflecting back on her career as dean of the Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies, Jane Hudak recalls many fond memories. During the summer of 2019, she hosted a group of entrepreneurs from Bahrain, showing them the ins and outs of American innovation and entrepreneurship. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she helped Lehigh Valley college students who were displaced from their schools in Louisiana.

But the one thing that she loved the most about her job, she says, is helping adult learners achieve their dreams. "I just live for other people," Hudak says.

As an adult learner herself, Hudak knows that doors can be opened just by having a degree. "I was the first person in my family to go to college. Having a degree can make a world of a difference for both yourself and your family." She received her undergraduate degree in political science from Kutztown University, graduating in 1991. While she was completing her master's at the same institution, she began working at Muhlenberg as an academic advisor in the summer of 1998. Shortly after, she was promoted to assistant dean of the Wescoe School in June 2000. She started as the full-time dean in May 2007.

According to Hudak, it wasn't just the idea of working in the realm of higher education that was appealing to her. She feels a certain connection toward adult learners, and, as dean of the Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies, she sought to help them achieve their educational and career aspirations. "When you come back as an adult student, you really are serious. Seeing people realize their dream, then going out and doing it, is the best. It helps me grow."

During her tenure at Muhlenberg, she advised the Continuing Studies students, oversaw curriculum development, and connected adult learners to internships, jobs and graduate programs. She also oversaw Muhlenberg's summer study program, which allows traditionally college aged and adult students to come back and take an in-person or virtual class over summer break. Even after students have graduated, she still aims to keep in touch with them, supporting them as they enter the working world.

Hudak's retirement date is set for June 30, 2022. Although she will miss working at Muhlenberg dearly, she still intends to be a part of the community. "My husband graduated from here, my son is a senior here. Muhlenberg is very much a part of our family, and it will always be."

Much like Jane Hudak, Steve Dutton is a family-oriented person. Although he is very proud of his accomplishments as assistant dean of students and director of student transitions, his favorite job is being a father—the "best job of all time." When he started at the student affairs office in 2017, his daughter Lila was a baby. Since then, he has proudly watched both her and his son Teddy grow up on Muhlenberg's campus.

"My wife and I would walk around campus with them on the weekends. They would ride their bikes up and down Academic Row. Muhlenberg has been synonymous with the growth of my family," Dutton says.

Since November 2019, Dutton's official title has been assistant dean of students and director of student transitions. In collaboration with the Office of Admissions and the Office of Student Engagement, Dutton has overseen every facet of a Muhlenberg student's orientation experience and their transition beyond their first-year.

One of his biggest responsibilities was overseeing the College's orientation program, which provides a fun-filled and enriching weekend for all first-year and transfer students just before each new semester. Dutton made sure that the entire process ran smoothly—from the hiring and onboarding of student orientation leaders, to communicating with incoming students, to ensuring that the weekend's events happened seamlessly.

In August 2020, with cases of COVID-19 still on the rise, the weekend changed drastically and a switch to a virtual format was necessary—Dutton and his staff did not miss a beat. That, he says, is his proudest moment. "I remember everyone just coming together because they understood how important orientation was," he says. "That's testament to how great of a place this is."

Dutton will be working for ZoomInfo, (not to be confused with ZOOM) a database of businesses (and businesspeople) designed specifically for marketing, recruitment and other business professionals. He will serve as the company's customer onboarding manager, which, according to Dutton, is "like being an orientation leader for adults. Minus the polo!" Dutton's last day is Feb. 25.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Katherine Dickey
Editor-In-Chief
Alex Blum
Managing Editor
Cydney Wilson
Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor
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Layout Editor
Katherine Conlon
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Tom Hiller
Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS
Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL
weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE
muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE
484-664-3195

CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

02/07/2022
Martin Luther Hall: Report of fire alarm from steam from shower, system silenced and reset.
Brown Hall: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

02/08/2022
Seegers Union: Report of found credit cards, messages left to owners to pick up, cards placed in lost and found locker.
Tilghman Street: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, Johnson Controls notified to respond.
Shankweiler Building: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

02/10/2022
Chew & 22nd Streets: Point of Information report.
Seegers Union: Report of lost backpack, backpack was later located.
Presser Hall: Report of harassment by communication, investigation to continue.

02/12/2022
Robertson Hall Report of alcohol violation, individual transported to residence, no further incident.
Benfer Hall: Report of disorderly conduct, individuals identified and spoken to, investigation to continue.
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Off Campus Location: Report to transport student to hospital
On Campus Location: Report of injured visitor, Allentown EMS responded and transported individual to hospital.

02/13/2021
Walz Hall: Report of alcohol violation, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported individual to hospital.
Liberty Street: Report to assist student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, no further incident.
Prosser Hall: Report of trashing, food found in hallway, Plant Operations notified to respond.
N. 23rd Street: Report of keys locked in vehicle, Campus Safety Officer successfully retrieved keys.

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Let's Talk Latinidad!

Latinx students and faculty share their stories in an interactive seminar

By Matthew Baresh
Asst. News Editor

The "Let's Talk Latinidad!" seminar was held last Thursday, Feb. 10, giving Latinx individuals on campus the opportunity to discuss their experiences and struggles regarding their cultural background. Six Latinx speakers sat at the front of the Great Room in Seegers Union to share a five minute snapshot of their life on and off of campus and how their backgrounds have shaped their life stories. Visiting Assistant Philosophy Professor Tiffany Montoya, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology Giancarlo Cuadra, Ph.D., Assistant Director for the Office of Multicultural Life Criss Braynen, Leslie Avecillas '23, president of Comunidad Latinx, Patricia Madrigal '25 and Kassandra Prado-Escalante '25 were the speakers at the panel.

"I think [the event] went wonderfully. We had a great group of presenters from diverse Latinx backgrounds that shared many different experiences," said Braynen.

The panelists covered a wide variety of topics, including their upbringing in Latinx communities, their experiences relating to their culture and struggles they have faced both in college and the workforce. Numerous speakers also shared their advice for how Muhlenberg and its community could continue to strive towards diversity and inclusivity pertaining to Latinx individuals.

"I think the administration is taking steps in the right direction," shared Cuadra. "They hired Dr. Brooke Vick as the assistant provost for faculty and diversity initiatives and she supports many of the initiatives for inclusivity many of us have raised over the past year. The administration also hired many new faculty members that represent several minority groups, including Latinos. There are other examples, such as the statements of diversity, equity and inclusion that speaks to many groups, including Latinos. I would like the administration to give us more visibility and to hire more Latinx professors and staff members and to admit more Latinx students."

"I personally have just joined the College about a year ago, so I don't want to speak for the experiences of everyone," explained Braynen. "I believe there has been growth, a willingness to listen and strides, but there is always more work to be done. These events are super helpful in allowing people from these backgrounds to speak up, share and find allies. I think it is important to listen to the concerns/setbacks Latinx students, faculty and staff have faced and actively work to mend the harms."

After the panelists shared their stories, the attendees were split into smaller groups to have more personal discussions with one another. These smaller circles gave each person an opportunity to share any of their experiences or to become more educated about the Latinx community and their struggles and victories.

"I would like to highlight what some of the students have mentioned," said Braynen. "It is important as our community moves to be more inclusive, we do not burden our Latinx students or expect them to be the ones to continually teach others. Also, some students still don't feel safe on this campus, and how can we remedy this? There are still a lot of microaggressions being felt in and out of the classroom and this is negatively impacting students."

Montoya said, "From what I gathered during the event, listening to the students, is that people get excited when they find other people like themselves or who have similar life experiences. So when non-Latinx students see a group of whatever minority sticking together, it's important to know that it's not an attempt to isolate themselves, they're simply enjoying temporary cultural familiarity before returning to the 'normal' white-culture of everyday life."

The "Let's Talk Latinidad!" seminar gave insight into what the future looks like for Latinx students and faculty both on and off campus and what could be done to increase their representation. This conversation was encouraged to continue outside of the event and to all of Muhlenberg and its students and faculty.

"Personally, I think putting more effort as a campus for amplifying the Latinx experience, and providing more funding, personnel and ideas towards building a community for all POC [People of Color] on this campus along with white students would go a long way," explained Avecillas. "It has been my experience here that it is students who are left to solve the racial tensions on this campus and I believe that some of our faculty are becoming receptive, but just like this event was a collaboration between all levels of individuals on this campus, future talk of solutions has to be a collaboration as well."

"As of yesterday, I had not met most of the Latinx students on campus and I am very glad we had that meeting and that moment to reflect a little bit on the concept of Latinidad and how we are perceived by the rest of the Muhlenberg community," shared Cuadra. "I want to make sure the entire college is aware of us and that we keep meeting and promoting these events, maybe more than just talking—display the cultures including the foods, the music, the dances, the parties, etc."

Alumni come back as staff members

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

When most students commit to attending Muhlenberg, they believe that they will be at the College for about a four-year timeframe. However, after graduating, some alumni decide to plant roots in Allentown and work for the institution that granted them their undergraduate degree. This was the case for Morgan Tietz '21 and Andrea Rodriguez '21.

These alumni had vastly different academic interests, but both have made their way back to Muhlenberg to work as faculty members with administrative positions. Tietz majored in environmental science with a double minor in sustainability studies and creative writing, while Rodriguez was on the pre-law track, studying international studies and a self-designed Latin American and Caribbean studies major. Now, Tietz holds the title of sustainability specialist and Rodriguez is an assistant director in the Office of Admissions.

Similarly, neither one of the young professionals knew that their career would begin at their alma mater. Tietz noted that, "While I was studying here at Muhlenberg I always felt very at home. I love the Lehigh Valley and knew when I started school here that I wanted to spend my career making the local community more sustainable. However, I didn't know that I would be starting my career at the place that has been my home away from home for the past four years! I feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity to work here with the amazing faculty, staff and students at Muhlenberg."

Not only does Rodriguez work for the College, she is also undergoing the process of obtaining her Masters degree in organizational leadership from the Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies. She discussed her reasoning behind her decision to take the job in admissions saying, "When I reflected on my undergraduate experience and my decision to continue with my studies here as a graduate student, it all came down to the community and relationships that I had established. These prior experiences made applying for and accepting the position a clear cut decision, because I knew that 'Berg was a place I could continue to grow personally and professionally. Also, my biggest priority was feeling excited to wake up for work every day!"

Rodriguez also expressed a changed outlook on Muhlenberg now that she has a full-time position at the institution. She noted that, "My perspective has begun to change because now I am behind the scenes and working within some of the many moving parts in admissions, that even as a student in the office I hadn't been aware of. I have even more appreciation for the mentorship that I received from my now-colleagues as a student because the support and relationships do not stop when students matriculate."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Andrea Rodriguez smiling on Academic Row.

Both Tietz and Rodriguez conveyed appreciation for the skills they gained at 'Berg as undergraduate students. Tietz stated, "I think my classes in sustainability prepared me quite well for this position. The faculty in the sustainability department works really hard to design courses where students have to examine sustainability in practice which has been incredibly helpful for me. There was one class in particular, Sustainable Solutions with Dr. Rich Niesenbaum, that prepared me for this position. In the class students had to look at local issues in sustainability and determine the best solutions to fix those problems. That was one of my favorite courses as an undergrad and I use the skills that I learned from Dr. Niesenbaum every day!"

Rodriguez expressed thoughts similar to Tietz. She said, "It has been helpful to pull in my skills from being a heavily involved student with an extra course load because of the many projects we are man-

See **Alumni** page 4

Professors in Prosser?

Housing and Residence Life has developed a new faculty engagement

By Sarah O'Sullivan
Staff Writer

Photo by Rebecca Clark '23

This quad is located between Martin Luther Hall and East Hall.

A professor stands at the lectern, intensely observing the classroom. As the sole authority figure potentially determining your academic fate in a field of study, their very presence can be intimidating. Would this intimidating aura change if students encountered their professors in the residence halls? Muhlenberg wants to find out by creating opportunities for students and professors to interact in casual settings.

Housing and Residence Life (HRL) has developed a plan to facilitate connections between faculty and students without even having to leave their dorm. A faculty engagement initiative was proposed to the College Committee on Campus Life in the fall 2021 semester, however, the HRL team has been working on this program for a while. The initiative would help "explore the opportunities and spaces for more organic interactions between professors and students that doesn't entail a lecture or group work," says Courtney Stephens, assistant dean of students and director of Housing and Residence Life.

Stephens emphasizes that as a community in which almost all students live on campus for all four years of their undergraduate education it is important to expand learning beyond the classroom. She notes that the goal of the program is quality not quantity, and emphasizes the ultimate goal of students and faculty establishing stronger connections. Some potential programming includes professors teaching passion area classes, attending building events, study halls in the dorms, career readiness programming, engaging with students through other interests such as cooking or a movie night, and being a guest on an HRL Instagram Takeover.

This program is not unique to Muhlenberg, other institutions have been implementing similar initiatives in recent years, and they have been proven to have positive results. Faculty-student interactions are vital to not only the success of students, but also the critical thinking skills, mental health, and college retention rates. Research done at Bowling Green State University suggests that when students interact with faculty outside of class time it can positively affect students' learning in the classroom. And research published in the College Student Journal found that increasing interactions between faculty and first year students enhanced their learning and even increased their openness to diversity and their self confidence in learning and academic success.

Dani Medvedovski '24, a Resident Advisor in Prosser Hall, sees the value of this programming, especially for underclassmen. She notes that first year students—who have not yet routinely interacted with professors to create strong connections—would most likely be the most receptive to these programs at Muhlenberg.

"However, I think some buildings are better suited for these programs than others," said Medvedovski, noting that Prosser Hall and Martin Luther Hall are ideal spaces because they include separate lounges secluded from residential rooms. "I think it's a little invasive if these events were to take place at spaces such as lounges on floors, and spaces where students live [and regularly] pass through."

Medvedovski hopes to see de-stressing activities such as yoga and meditation rather than workshops, "I'd rather see events that take students' minds off their workload as the semester gets more stressful."

Lindsay Sherrick '25 would love for the initiative to allow her to explore the activities and passions she does not get to experience in her classes, like crafting. "I know that's something I would like to do because I love doing art," she explains, "but I don't take any classes in it at Muhlenberg."

Though this initiative was not motivated by COVID, the pandemic along with the pivot to Zoom classes and online events has made it difficult for students and faculty to form the same type of relationships as in previous years.

"We are continuing to work with different committees on campus that involve both faculty and staff, and are also connecting with the Dean of Academic [Life] and Dean of Students to make intentional next steps to make this as robust a program as possible," Stephens adds, noting that while there is no launch date scheduled currently, they are excited to share more details about the program as it continues to develops.

"Learning is often associated with only taking place within the classroom. A residential curriculum broadens that definition to also include educational opportunities."

From **Alumni** page 3

aging at once and the fast-paced nature of the work. As a student, I was able to hone in on my time management, collaboration and leadership skills that are proving beneficial to my work in the office."

Britney Jara '23 works with Rodriguez as a student greeter in the Office of Admissions. She expressed her admiration for Rodriguz saying, "Andrea has been someone extremely close to me since my sophomore year. I was in awe of her work ethic and success and that continues to be shown at her new job in Admissions. Now that I work with her in a professional capacity, I'm able to see her dedication and drive, her care for other students (students that haven't committed to Muhlenberg yet), and the support she gives to her fellow co-workers."

Meghan Taber '23 had a favorable opinion of the College stating, "I've watched them continue to expand their sustainability program and I'd love to be a part of that!"

Muhlenberg College as both an academic institution and place of employment has proved to be a welcoming environment for Tietz and Rodriguez. It is evident through the experiences of these two administrators that students interested in returning to the College after graduation are likely to be welcomed back.

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> "There's no diploma in the world that declares you as an artist—it's not like becoming a doctor. You can declare yourself an artist and then figure out how to be an artist." ~ Kara Walker

Art festival promotes student art

Photo courtesy of Rachel Fuchs '23

Gabbi Stein '25 sold her art at the festival.

By Johnny Veglia
Co- A&C Editor

The pandemic has been a hardship for many at Muhlenberg and across the world, but it has also been a time for growth and realization. From baking bread to crocheting, the pandemic unlocked new abilities and hobbies for many 'Berg students. Tessa Barrett '23, a biology major and a studio art and chemistry double minor, utilized the pandemic to grow her relationship with little plush animals. The artist did not buy these little friends, but instead decided to make them with various materials.

"I started making a lot of the plushies over the quarantine and so I had over a 100 of them in my house that I sewed because I was so bored. So really the need to get rid of that many stuffed animals was the reason I did it [the art fair] last semester and I liked it so much that I did it again," stated Barrett.

The work of the artist also included paintings, and repurposed polaroids that didn't come out picture perfect.

"I also have these Polaroids that I repaint the Polaroid if it doesn't come out well from the camera so that way I'm not wasting the piece," said Barrett.

Barrett was one of the several artists featured this past weekend for the Muhlenberg Comedy Association (MCA) Student Art Fair in the Great Room in Seegers Union.

The MCA Student Art Fair was organized by Ashley Hilary '22 and Chrissy Nagrowski '22. Hilary stated, "Chrissy Nagrowski and I collabed together and Chrissy was performance logistics and I was art logistics! It was a culmination of sending out a Google survey, securing the space, and contacting the artists and groups about events specifics! It was a super fun process, especially working with Chrissy!"

The work of some of these creative students was highlighted last week and now these artists had the opportunity to showcase their artistic pieces in-person. The event was filled with drawings, earrings, jewelry, masks and more.

Sarah Hansel '24, another featured artist, displayed her recent hobby with a display of handmade necklaces.

"I started my business just over break, and it was actually right after they sent out an email asking if anyone was interested. It just seemed like a really good way to kind of put my business out there because our student body is so intrigued in each other's interests. I knew that it would be a really good way to take off and just start selling," Hansel stated.

For artists to be included in the fair, they had to fill out a Google Form sent by Hilary. "As far as getting artists, we sent out a few campus-wide emails and asked people from past sales to join! We got over 20 people interested. It was amazing," Hilary declared.

Hansel was impressed by the turnout and thought it was an "awesome" event. The artist even discussed the possibility of exploring bracelets or other forms of jewelry with comments from peers and patrons.

Another artist, Charlotte Alexander '25, displayed her love for the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) with various stickers and prints of popular characters. One popular character featured in Alexander's pieces was Wanda Maximoff, fresh off of the excitement for the new "Doctor Strange: In the Multiverse of Madness" trailer.

"I have a lot more stickers which I'm very happy about and prints. Everyone's just been so sweet. Even if they haven't bought anything they've said, 'Woah your art is so amazing,' and everyone here, in general, is just so talented. It's an awesome environment right now," declared Alexander.

The Great Room hosted more than just artists and their small businesses, but also a wide variety of performance groups thanks to the direction of Nagrowski. A cappella groups united to showcase their talents and to add more excitement to the festival.

Britney Jara '23, a performer for CODA, mentioned, "I thought the festival went great! It was our first time performing in front of others with our new members and I think this helped them see how great it feels to see other students and performance groups supporting each other."

"Seeing the many a cappella, dance, comedy groups and more, elevated the festival in a way where students were dancing and grooving out while they were buying earrings or masks from their fellow peers," continued Jara. "It really was just a festival that showcased how unique and special Muhlenberg students are."

Jara supported Nagrowski and complimented the artist's practical items in addition to their work organizing the different production elements. Jara purchased her third item from "Hooked on Chrissy" and was satisfied with the quality clothing articles crafted by Nagrowski.

"It's no surprise that people gravitated to their table during the festival; they're extremely talented and created art that people can use and wear every day," stated Jara.

Additional performances included the Chaimonics, Top Naach, Damsels in Excess, the Dynamics and even more. The groups brought a lively energy as students performed in the open space and filled the sale with live music, dance and jokes.

Jacob Forman '24, a member of the Dynamics, declared, "It was great being able to see all these unique artists come together to show off their talents. The diverse art was really great to see come together in one space."

The performance groups were an exciting part of the festival, but also caused a little mayhem in the Great Room. Alexander mentioned how it was a little difficult to hear her patrons amidst the singing, tapping, and other performances. Alexander still enjoyed the pieces and thought the groups "added an atmosphere of fun."

If students missed the art festival, there should be more opportunities in the near future to support the talented performance groups and to highlight the work of various artists.

"Just go to the next art sale! Hopefully it's going to be [in] April [or] May and it should be a very good time," concluded Alexander.

Using the silver screen for Black History Month

By Ian Clark
Asst. A&C Editor

This month, the Africana studies program, the Black Students Association and the Office of Multicultural Life, have been sponsoring events in celebration of Black History Month. Last week on Feb. 10, a screening of “Judas and the Black Messiah,” a 2021 film directed by Shaka King and starring Daniel Kaluuya and LaKeith Stanfield was held. Hosted by Professor Roberta Meek, lecturer in media and communication and Africana studies, and Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D, assistant professor of English and Africana studies, the screening was accompanied by an information session prior, which served to educate the audience on the true history of the Black Panthers.

Meek and Kucik discussed everything from the inception of the Panthers, the Ten-Point Program they hoped to achieve, their battle against fascism and more. Afterward, Meek and Kucik allowed for open conversation where anyone could voice their thoughts and opinions on the film and how it relates to our world.

The Black Panther Party has always been a historically misrepresented group, from being shown as the aggressive antithesis to Martin Luther King Jr. in U.S. history textbooks to even being erased from the narrative of the Civil Rights Movement altogether. This supposedly violent and rebellious paramilitary terrorist organization was—in reality—a force for good and change within the world.

“Time and time again, we see how history is controlled by people, specifically white people, who hold enough power to control the narrative. The misconceptions about who the Black Panther party is are seen everywhere in history classes and textbooks. To see a depiction that is more honest to the real story is crucial to address the racism our history books and classes have taught us.” said attendee Bridget Parks ‘25

The Black Panther Party was originally entitled “The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.” It was founded in 1966 by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton. The group monitored police activity in the Oakland area through the practice of openly carrying guns to defend their community. For this, they were viewed as violent. The Black Panthers went on to be a bold and powerful symbol not just for Black Power, but for overall unity against oppression and fascism. Eventually, they turned their attention from just monitoring police brutality to actively taking a part in bettering their communities through education and outreach programs.

As the party rose to national prominence, they started to garner the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), specifically the Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), a branch tasked with targeting and infiltrating political groups that posed a threat to the U.S. Government. COINTELPRO set its sights on the deputy chairman of the Black Panther Party: Fred Hampton. Hampton began to rise to prominence as a unifying force not only in regards to Black communities, but also oppressed groups as a whole, uniting them against the capitalism and fascism orchestrated by the U.S. government.

Photo by Anaya Battle '22

Students and staff sitting to watch ″Judas and the Black Messiah.″

This operation is documented in the film, “Judas and the Black Messiah.” Based on true events, the film depicts Bill O’Neal (Stanfield) who is blackmailed into becoming a spy for COINTELPRO as he grows closer to Hampton (Kaluuya), eventually aiding in his assassination. The film is a harrowing and nerve-racking retelling of this story, garnering mass critical acclaim and earning a nomination for Best Picture at the Academy Awards, with Kaluuya winning Best Supporting Actor for his outstanding performance as Hampton.

Andre Rojas ‘25, another attendee of the event, commented that “‘Judas and the Black Messiah’ is one of the best movies that shows the Black Panther Party and Fred Hampton in the light of the truth, and not the radicalized version that schools have fed us for years… It was a very welcoming space, with Hispanic, white, Black [and] Asian representation there, people just trying to learn more about the Black Panthers, whether they have some knowledge or no knowledge about it.”

Parks commented on the importance of event attendance, “As a white person, it is our job at the bare minimum, to listen to these stories and the impact it has on students here. This includes sitting down and watching the film, but also staying for the conversation students had.”

This event showed the lasting power of Hampton’s legacy, that after viewing this story of adversity and defeat, hope is still an option. Hampton stood above all else for unity and strength against oppression and it is clear that even in death, Hampton’s story is able to inspire that same urge for unification and the power of the people.

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Corrections

In our Feb. 3 issue, Des Suarez and Paige Weisburg′s names were misspelled in their bylines of the Opinions section, on the pieces ″self portrait as cuddling″ and ″Paige′s Page″ respectively. For this we are deeply sorry.

In our Feb. 10 issue, in the piece ″Black History Month celebration begins with love,″ Hailey Petrus′s ′23 quotes and work organizing the event were misattributed to Hailey Coleman ′23. This has been fixed in our online edition. We deeply regret this mistake.

Lunar New Year celebrated at 'Berg

By Gabi Hirshfield
Staff Writer

The Lunar New Year took place on Tuesday, Feb. 1, and the Muhlenberg community has had several events to celebrate. On Tuesday, Feb. 8, Muhlenberg's Wood Dining Commons had dumplings, chicken and broccoli stir fry, lion's head soup and more to kick off the Lunar New Year celebration. On Thursday, Feb. 10, the Muhlenberg Activities Council held a stuff-a-plush event with tigers for the Year of the Tiger.

Also on Thursday, Feb. 10, the Asian Student Association, the Chinese Language Table, the International Student Association and the Office of International Student Support hosted a roundtable discussion in the annex of General's Quarters to discuss the Year of the Tiger. Students and faculty from a variety of backgrounds came together to discuss what the Lunar New Year means to them.

Individuals in the room began to share their experiences, both internationally and domestically, surrounding this important day. Some talked about traditional rituals like gathering with family, buying new clothes, getting haircuts, cleaning the house and throwing away old items. The presentation and students described typically large family reunions, fireworks and late night festivities to welcome in the new year. On the first day of the new year, families exchange red envelopes known as hongbao or ang pau. These envelopes are given to everyone in the family who is not married, and contain money. On the first day of the new year, there are also lion and dragon dances, known as wulong or wushi. It is important to note that while traditions and rituals vary depending on the country, the central ideas of the Lunar New Year remain consistent throughout. The Lunar New Year is a fresh start with several symbols that bring about good fortune and prosperity for the coming new year.

A huge part of the Lunar New Year for the individuals who shared their experiences at the roundtable discussion included gathering with family. International students shared that during the new year, schools and workplaces are closed, so everyone in their families would gather for a celebration. A student from China talked about the new years' spectacular on the China Central Television Network with dancers, singers and huge performances.

PHOTO BY ANAYA BATTLE '22

Students hanging out after making their Stuff-a-Plush.

There are a lot of traditional stories behind the new year celebrations, one of them being the story of Nian, who is a mythical monster who preyed on villagers every new year, until one year an old man appeared and decided to stand up to the monster. He decided to hang up red paper decorations like lanterns and firecrackers to frighten Nian away. So, it is a tradition to hang up all sorts of red decorations on the Lunar New Year, which welcome strong virtues of fortune and good luck.

Casey James Miller, assistant professor of anthropology, spoke on the roundtable discussion, saying, "It's so great to get a chance to see everyone again, colleagues, students and friends that I haven't seen since the pandemic, at least in person. It feels really nice to be able to keep the tradition going and to celebrate the new year. It was great to see so many people come out and attend the event and share their stories and learn about the Lunar New Year."

GASP performs anti-love concert

By Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor

On Feb. 12, 2022 at 9 p.m, The Great American Songbook Project (GASP), an ensemble covering music from the 1920s-60s, hosted their annual Valentine's Day performance and fundraiser, entitled "GASP!: The Great American SINGLES Project" in the intimate setting of the Red Door Cafe. The ensemble focused on songs relating to "anti-love," or themes of sadness, anger, and confusion surrounding love.

The entire group started with the song, "I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)," by Dean Martin and moved into an array of emotional and fun songs.

The event was also a fundraiser for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. "We chose the Lung Cancer Research Foundation for my mom because she suffers from lung cancer," explained accompanist Emma Roppo '23.

"So that was really special that people you know were willing to help us fundraise for that foundation," she said. Over $200 were raised, partly in thanks to the auction GASP also hosted.

Desmond Reifsnyder '22 transformed into an auctioneer for the night. "Desmond as both auctioneer and soloist was iconic; their ability to switch from charismatic auctioneer to heartfelt soloist was excellent," Lili Daskais '23 said.

GASP first auctioned off the opportunity to choose what color GASP member Danny Milkis' '23 hair should be. Milkis, however, was not present due to having contracted COVID and being in isolation.

PHOTO BY JESSICA ROSEN '24

GASP performing as a group.

Next on the table, a personalized Valentine's Day telegram from the ensemble. Then, a personalized poem from new member Jules Curtis '25.

And the final two items: a private piano session with Roppo, and a meal cooked by Joshua Myers '22.

After the auction, Reifsnyder sang a heartful cover of "I Fall In Love Too Easily," by Chet Baker.

GASP wanted to flip the script on Valentine's Day by selecting an array of "anti-love" songs. Love is a very popular topic for the 1920s-1960s music GASP performs, so they wanted something a little different for their concert.

> **"I love how they put their own spin on the material."**

GASP member Ali Rohrbough '22 said, "There's so many songs that are love-based. So the idea of flipping that around... is right up our alley."

Zachary Kleiman '25 sang a cryworthy rendition of "Mr. Lonely," while Sandy McInerney '23 and Reifsnyder performed choreography in the background. "My solo," Kleiman said, "was very collaborative, very fun, very goofy."

Other hits performed include "Please Mr. Postman," by the Marvelettes, "Shadow of My Smile" by Peggy Lee and many more.

"I love how they put their own spin on the material," Gabrielle McCabe '24 said. "It was great to see them use their voice to promote such a great cause."

Also tying in with the anti-love theme, were the personalized Valentines being sold. They were separated into three categories: "pure," "eh" and "naughty." The naughty ones were those not typical to love, but rather bordering on insults.

Despite this, the concert was a combination of "uplifting spirits" and "helping others in need," according to Rohrbough.

Roppo said, "We had a great turnout. GASP is still a pretty new group. So having that turnout was something that was really reassuring, and really fun."

The performance also took on a new appreciation since it was their first GASP Singles Project since the pandemic. "It's a little bit more special," Rohrbough said about performing in the midst of COVID.

Kleiman "It's a great group of people and I'm grateful to be a part of it."

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Staff Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome back to this week's edition of Paige's Page! This week we will be discussing self-confidence, self-care, and self-love. I feel like this is a really great theme coming off of this season of love, because as RuPaul says, "If you can't love yourself, how in the hell you gonna love somebody else?" If you know me, you know that confidence is something I have consistently had an abundance of, which is why I feel absolutely justified in answering all of your questions with absolutely no qualifications every week. With that being said, let′s get started!

Hey Paige! Do you have any advice on how to be more confident and comfortable in my own skin?

Hi, bestie! I absolutely do! Personally, I express myself with the way I dress. I love constructing both basic and complex outfits that match my mood for the day ahead. I love wearing things that one would reasonably not expect to see in the classroom at 9 a.m. When I look good, I feel good. I know that is certainly not the advice for everyone, but, try to find something consistent and comfortable that makes you feel like the best version of yourself. Maybe a signature scent, an accessory (I bought some amazing jewelry at the student art sale this past weekend and they make great new staples), even just a new part of your morning routine that makes you feel whole. I also very much believe that spending time with people that empower you and make you feel good about yourself is so helpful for feeling confident. Honestly, being confident is really difficult. People pick themselves apart for not being like everyone else, but I think a good way to get out of this mindset is to remember that you have your own unique strengths that make you, you. No one wants you any other way.

Hi Paige! I'm experiencing classic Muhlenberg symptoms of doing way too much and therefore don't have enough time for myself. Do you have any tips on slowing down/little things to do to feel like yourself when everything is so busy?

Hey, bestie! I wish we had a fun Muhlenberg name for the typical over-extension of Muhlenberg students. Unfortunately, this stressful reality is really, really hard to maintain without physical and emotional burnout. I tend to have tunnel vision when I get really busy, and all I can focus on is the image of my Google Calendar for the day. These thoughts run through my head while I'm eating, sleeping, and even trying to literally just sit. My evenings are really the only times that I have to just be, where I could be casually social if I wanted to, or I could sit and not speak to anyone. I think having a constant activity that you do every single day to separate you from the work really helps with this burnout. Or even escaping your everyday activities by doing something you don't get to do very often as a treat to bring you back down to earth. I, for example, love to sing. I am not involved in choir or a cappella and sometimes I will just grab a practice room in the CA for an hour and turn off my mind to do something fun for me. When I was adjusting to college life my freshman year, I decided that I needed to watch something so mindless and stupid that it would be impossible to think about anything else while watching it. For me, that is "The Bachelor." The star is always doing something dumb, and so are contestants. My favorite way to deal with this is to yell at my screen for two hours a week. It's so cathartic, and it definitely allows me to disconnect from my busy reality for a short period of time. Just breathe, you can do it! And if you can't, then you need to prioritize yourself and your health. It's okay to take breaks from things. Everything will be okay!

Hey Paige, what are some of your favorite self-care tips? I am so bored with my regular routine.

Hi, bestie! I am so excited about this question! I am so awful at self-care because when my mental health is not the best, I forget to take care of myself. I'm sure that this is applicable to many of you as well. When it comes to self-care products, if I have a lot of time, I love having a fun and extravagant beauty routine which looks eerily similar to Cassie′s manic 4 a.m. regimen in this season of "Euphoria." I have an eight-step routine on standby that, unfortunately, is shortened to about three on an everyday basis. I love a sheet mask so much; I have this one from e.l.f. that is exfoliating and bubbles up. Not only does it make your skin feel lovely, but it is also so funny to look at. When I am having a bad day, sometimes I need to laugh at myself, and this is a really fantastic way to do that. I love fun things to do with my hands as well. I started knitting in quarantine, and that really helped me to disconnect from reality and just sit and breathe. Listening to podcasts or music has also been really great while I get ready in the morning, or at night to help me to think about other things and wind down after a long day. Find things that make you happy and do them everyday. I promise it will make each day better and easier. Give yourself grace and please be nice to yourself.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio: @paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree @bergweekly.

Email anxiety

By Lily Magoon
Contributing Writer

Emailing a professor can be a daunting task. Sometimes it's because you're asking for an extension that you don't think you'll get or a recommendation for a job or internship. More often than not, it's a simple clarifying question or to ask to meet in person. We spend time on these emails, crafting the perfect prose to get us what we want, walking the thin line between formal, and not enough. When it's finally done, we press send with shaking fingers and pray that adding that second exclamation mark makes us sound positive, not manic. Minutes, hours, days pass, as we anxiously await a response. Just when we're considering a second email, we get this:

"Thats fone.

Sent From My iPhone."

It's difficult to accept this kind of response from a generation that complains of our overuse of filler words and lack of grammatical knowledge, especially when we spent upwards of half an hour Googleing things like "affect or effect?" and "should I use Dr. or Professor?" You'd be shocked at how many students come to the Writing Center just for help on their emails, while the five-page paper they're asking about is the least of their worries. To any members of the English department—reading this and shaking their heads at their less grammar-conscious colleagues—I'm here to tell you that you're absolutely a part of the problem. In fact, you're some of the biggest offenders.

There's no need to spend ten minutes crafting the perfect response to our question, but there are a few things you could stand to improve on. Consider doing a quick typo-check before you send it off. It's a little disheartening to see the professor who circled the one missing apostrophe in your last paper leaving the note, "proofread next time please," spell two words wrong in a three word email. Consider changing the settings on your phone to personalize your email signature, or even just delete the default "Sent From My iPhone," which is what you expect to see at the bottom of an email from your Grandmother containing a picture of a cat she found on Facebook, not the person with a doctorate and the power to crush your GPA with a single letter.

This whole email experience leaves students thoroughly disheartened. The hours you spent deciding whether or not to send an email, and then agonizing over what to say once you decided to, now seem completely ridiculous. The anxiety, the trips to the Writing Center, the thirty minutes of proofreading, all for what? It's enough to make you think that—maybe—professors are just people, and you aren't actually being graded on your emails.

All the best in your emailing endeavors,

Lily Magoon

Sent From My iPhone.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Listen Loudly
...
A creative space for marginalized voices

Up into a dimmed sky home/

By Des Suarez
Staff Writer

ive always thought home was a person

that knew the scarred, veined backs of my long purple hue prone hands,
the faint and spattered freckles on my nose,
the chocolate milk stain of a birthmark on my shin

i thought home was a person
who didn't know the sighs between my words but who'd learn the breaks
between my silly little jokes as the most intricate tellings of my secret language

a language no one knows but i try so desperately to teach

a person

who speaks the same language, with no prior experience necessary

home

has become the squished embraces of my little sisters

the laughter
bickering
hard shoves
head rubs
shared favorite snacks (that i hide in the depths of our pantry, and sometimes behind my bed)

home
has become the love i have finally learned how to express in the forms of

details

minor occurrences, minuscule moments that create the messy and wool like fabric of my life, littered with frayed edges and loose threads

my home is in a stupid town where i see people from middle school at the nearby walmart, and my not-quite-friends, not-quite-enemies from high school in the tiny, unshoppable mall

The doors of every business are dingy with brown stains and the streets are covered in trash and the missing child signs for a would now be seven year old girl called Dulce Maria Alvarez cover every wooden electrical wire pole in town

she was last scene in an always foggy park near my family neighborhood home walking along a pebbled trail with her mother & smaller brother before quarantine began in 2020

she has been missing for two years .
my little sister is now seven

yet i am still looking for a home away from that four walled gray bedroom, where my bed is my greatest confidant, and deepest sarcophagus

holding my dreams, tears, and stray blue hair dye

home is where i can leave my closet door open to the abyssal ghostly portal, and feel only comfort

home

My Body

By Bernice Owusu
Staff Writer

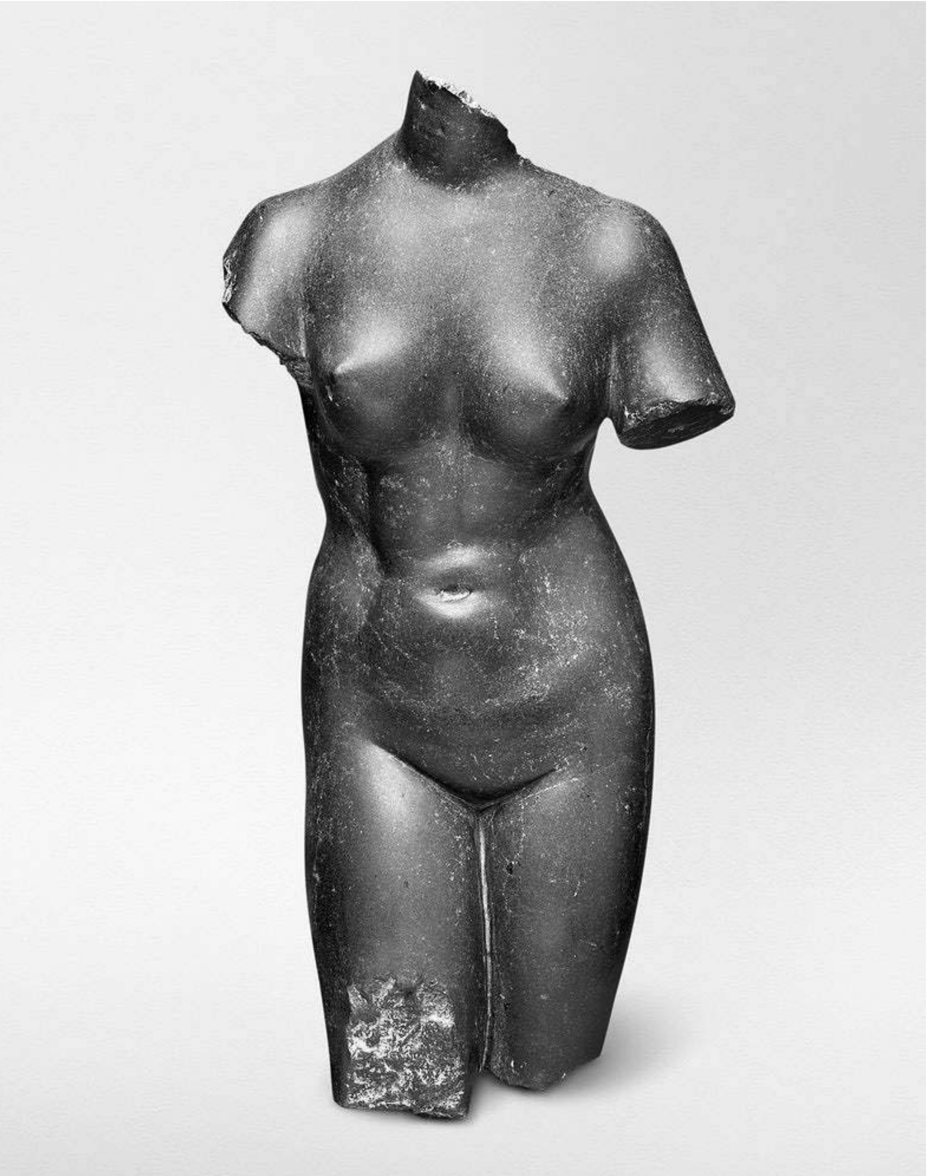
Time is moving fast
My body is moving fast
And I cannot keep up
I look at my reflection in the mirror
I can barely recognize myself
The jeans no longer fit
The stretch marks are becoming more apparent
Who in the hell ever knows their bra size

Time is moving fast
My body is moving fast
And I cannot keep up
I have entered into an age
An age without a manual
An age of freedom yet I am being controlled
I am burdened with the ideal body image
I am burdened with the constant weight loss and gain

The mental health, a scale without balance
And without control, a mind of its own
Not in the hands of its owner.

It scares me, it frightens me
Because deep inside
I am still that little girl who gets excited over ice cream
When did childhood become a crime
And when did imagination cease.
warm hugs from mom and dad are getting cold without attention.

……
Time is moving fast
My body is moving fast
And I cannot keep up
All I want to do is to run on the field and
laugh out loud without a care in the world.



Game, set, new season!

The men's and women's tennis team is set for spring competition.

By Josh Botel
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men's and women's tennis teams open their seasons shortly. The men's team opening match is Saturday, Feb. 19 against Swarthmore College and the women's season begins on Sunday, Feb. 20 at Franklin & Marshall College. Both teams played matches in the fall, where the women's team rattled off an impressive win (9-0) against Cedar Crest College and then followed up with a (5-4) performance against Marywood University. The women's team has serious depth, with the roster filled with upperclassmen.

The men's team also participated in a fall match, however they lost against Marywood (3-6). The men's team is in a rebuilding year, with mostly young and inexperienced players. Head Coach David DeLasCasas Kurvink commented about both team's performances, saying, "In the fall, the women were able to pull off two good wins and the guys lost a close match that—for many—it was their first time getting to compete. The players have been doing off season workouts on their own and have improved leading into the spring season."

DeLasCasas Kurvink is heading into his first full season as head coach for the Mules. He is excited for his team to finally hit the court, "The teams have been working hard training indoors, and we are excited to get outdoors and use the newly resurfaced courts. I am excited for the student athletes to compete, bond as a team and hopefully have a regular season without interruption."

DeLasCasas Kurvink then talked about the veterans and the newcomers on the team. "On the women's side, we have a strong group of returners and a couple new players that should lead a strong season. On the men's side, the team lost a significant amount of starters from last year, and we have been able to fill up the open spots with some new players that are eager to get going."

DeLasCasas Kurvink's expectations are that, "Both teams have a very competitive season ahead with nationally ranked competition in our conference. We are looking to improve every day and play the best tennis we are capable of."

Caroline Armknecht '22, a team captain who won her most recent singles match (6-1, 6-0), shared what she is anticipating during her last season. "I am looking forward to competing my hardest and leaving my all out on the court this season. I feel so lucky to have this opportunity to compete with my teammates one last time and can't wait to finish it strong with the two fellow seniors that I've been playing with since day one. I can't wait to play my hardest for this team on our beautiful new courts while working with great teammates and coaches."

Armknecht's career has been plagued by numerous roadblocks, forcing her not to compete. In her first year, her season ended short with a wrist injury. Then, in her sophomore and junior years the seasons were canceled or shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So, even though she is a senior, this will (hopefully) be her first full season.

Photo courtesy of Office of Communications

Caroline Maglaras '23 featured in the picture above.

Isaac Shulman '25, who lost his first singles match in a heartbreaking (10-8) tiebreaker in the third and final set, shared what he is looking forward to in his first season with the team. "I am really looking forward to getting this opportunity to compete and to improve my game on the tennis court."

Captain Daniel Kantor '22, dominating his first singles match (6-1, 6-0), talked about what it is like for his career to wind down. "I've been playing tennis for almost my whole life so knowing that my time playing tennis competitively is almost over is a bit sad. But the past few years on the team [have] been really fun and I'm looking forward to ending my time on the team on a high note."

He also talked about his expectations for the team this year. "This season we are rebuilding as we graduated a lot of seniors from our team last year. I've already seen a lot of progress from the guys in practice so hopefully we can remain competitive in our conference matches and all the guys go out there and compete their best."

Armknecht added, "I expect [that] great things are to come with our new coaching staff and courts! We have all the ingredients for a great upcoming season, so now it's up to the players to put in our hard work and love for the sport to lead to amazing results in our matches."

"Patti Scandal," CC gold and the future

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Asst. Sports Editor

Muhlenberg wrestling made a trip down to Baltimore for the end of their 12-8 season. This competition was greatly anticipated as it presented a host of old rivals from the season, such as Luca Colestock's '22 rematch against Jaedyn Harris '24 of McDaniel College.

The Mules finished the Centennial Conference Championship in sixth out of seventh place with 34 points. However, this team performance was not without some success. Colestock successfully defended his Centennial Conference title. In his first bout, Colestock expanded upon his previous dominance against Harris from a previous (3-2) decision to a (5-3) win in the second round.

Colestock says, "I prepared like any other match, just focused on controlling the pace and getting to my offense. I knew I'd be able to score more points than I did the first time we wrestled and that he'd be gunning for me so my mindset going in was to open up and show what I can do."

Colestock then demonstrated his experience with an emphatic 6-1 decision to win gold.

Wrestling is a sport that hinges on the tiniest of details that require in-depth analysis. As a typical observer who is used to tracking a football in the air or watching a basketball player take charge, the smart plays may be obvious. In wrestling, the slightest change of hand position could lead to breaking your opponent.

In order to learn from matches such as Colestock's, it's truly important to capture every detail. Ethan Kreuzburg '25 describes his experience on the injury roster, now killing it as the Centennial cinematic mastermind explaining that "[his] experience at the Centennial Conference Championship was a lot different than that of the team members actually competing. Film in wrestling, as in most sports, is crucial to analyzing how your matches went and what specific things need to be worked out following the tournament. This was my job. I had to film ev-

See **Scandal** page 11

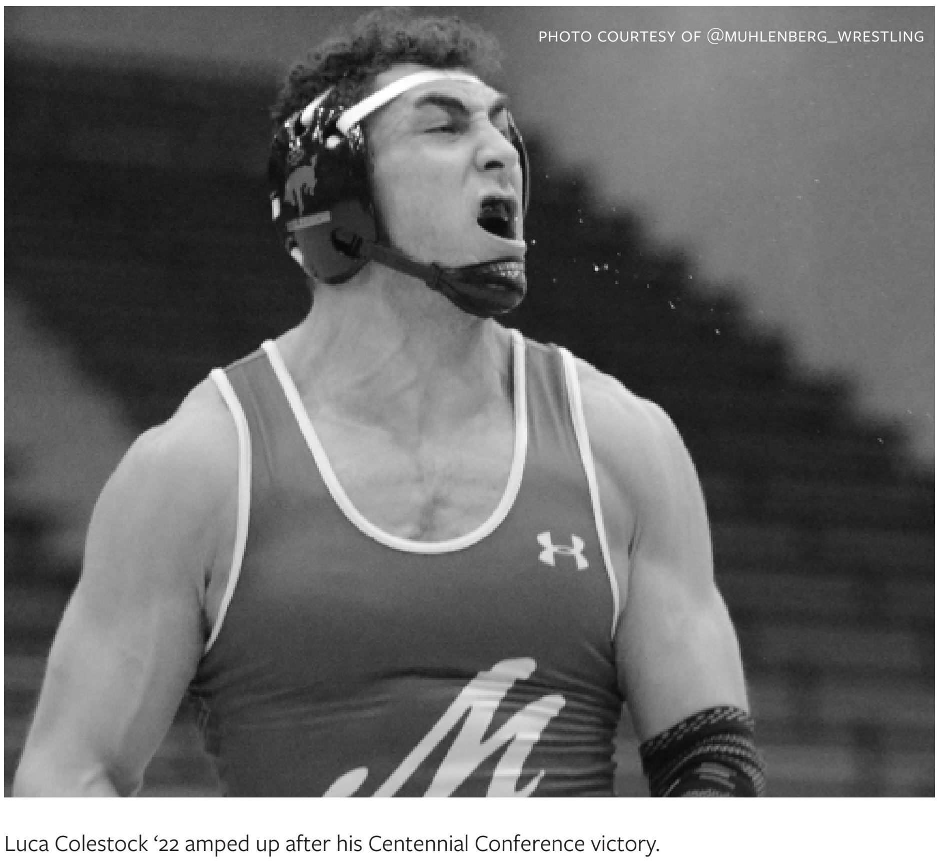


PHOTO COURTESY OF @MUHLENBERG_WRESTLING

Luca Colestock '22 amped up after his Centennial Conference victory.

THE ALL-WEEKLY TEAM

The All-Weekly Team is a segment that aims to bring more attention and recognition to Muhlenberg student-athletes who have achieved athletic excellence in the past week.

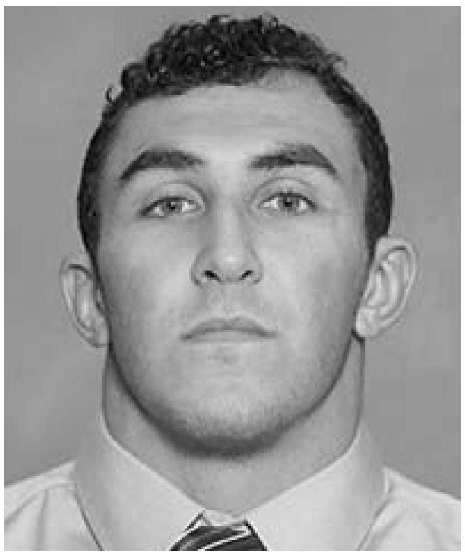
MARGAUX ERIPRET

Margaux Eripret '22 has had an excellent two-game stretch with 18PTS 5REBs 2STLS 1BLK in a 63-56 victory over F&M College and 17PTS 13REBs 1 BLK in a 73-61 loss against Washington College. On the season, Eripret leads the team with 11 points-per-game (PPG) and second in rebounds 6.9 RPG.

GIOVANNI RUBINO

Giovanni Rubino '24 provided a steady offensive attack almost recording a near double-double with 15PTS and 9 assists, helping lead the Mules to a 73-67 victory over F&M College on Senior Day. The second-year guard has seen a boost in his role on the team as a nice additional scorer, averaging 8.2 PPG.

LUCA COLESTOCK



Luca Colestock '22 defended his Centennial Conference title in the 197-pound weight class at the CC championship hosted by Johns Hopkins. Colestock secured a first-round bye then proceeded to rattle off two victories, a 5-3 decision, and finally a 6-1 decision in the final match, to clinch his second-consecutive conference title.

photos courtesy of Office of Communications

From **Scandal** page 10

ery Muhlenberg match that I could catch so that my teammates could better themselves after the competition was over."

Kreuzburg certainly captured what Colestock says was his favorite takedown. "The first takedown I had in my finals match was definitely my favorite. It's always a huge momentum shift scoring in the first period, especially closing out a period with one and that really set the tone for the whole match."

Colestock put on a show at the championships, but the fact does not change that the Mules failed to do better than second to last. If they are going to learn anything from their captain Colestock, he hopes they learn, "One thing I hope [the] guys can pick up on from my accomplishments is that they gotta be relentless and put more work in than anyone else. This is the hardest college sport and there is a lot of talent at the D3 level, so you gotta be the hardest worker in the room. Also to listen to our coaches, we have a great staff, including an assistant ranked 13th in the world (Guesseppe Rea) at his weight and Muhlenberg's first-ever All-American (our Head Coach Jason McLean '01), and they know what they're doing when it comes to developing our wrestling."

While the camera captures the celebratory moments and the hard pins in this tournament, it also captured the "Patti Scandal." Jack Patti '25 and his overtime scandal is the "Patti Scandal." Patti had fought two all-out bouts before ending up in the semifinals for third place in the tournament. The bout went to overtime, wherein the rules demand that the first point wins. Patti had successfully taken his opponent to his back with both shoulder blades touching the ground for three seconds, not a pin, but enough for two points. The referee held up two fingers in the air gesturing the end of the match, PATTI WINS. Patti relaxed and in that split second his opponent escaped and the zebra called the match a win for Patti's Ursinus opponent, Muhlenberg wrestling's greatest rivalry.

Patti put up a great fight that day and his future is bright. So while the team will be losing their captain and two-time conference champion Colestock believes. "The performances put on by our 125 and 157-pound wrestlers, Joey Lamparelli '24 and Anson Dewar '25, really impressed me. I know they both would've liked to place higher but they wrestled well and should be proud of placing in their first conference tournament. They're both super talented and it's awesome to see young wrestlers have some success early in their careers because it only makes them hungrier for the future."

Looking forward to next year, Sean Quaye '25 describes a beautiful team dynamic that is certainly the dream for every Mule team. He explains that "The members of the team were dedicated to the goals that the team set and to the building of our program. We had a lot of big wins and meshed well as a team. The guys love each other and it wasn't long before we figured out we're stronger when we wrestle for the sake of each other rather than our own. We love to win as a team and this season was a strong indicator of such."

The wrestling team has one more regular-season match in the Dietrich Field House on Feb. 20 and the NCAA Mideast Region Tournament is TBA.

Crack! Baseballs are soon to be flying

The Muhlenberg Baseball team prepares for spring play.

By Isaac Shulman
Contributing Writer

Despite Mother Nature's struggle to bring lasting warmth to campus, Muhlenberg baseball's first pitch is scheduled for Feb. 26. Ryan Hebert '22, a two-time Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll award recipient and an All-Centennial Conference second team player, is looking forward to playing a full length season this year. Hebert says, "Last year we were only allowed to play 14 conference games, mostly all on Saturdays. Typically, we play a 40-game, 5-game-per-week schedule. I haven't had the chance to play in a season like this since high school."

During both of Hebert's sophomore and junior years he led the team in batting average, hits, triples and runs scored from the lead-off spot in the lineup. When asked about how he plans on taking his game to the next level, the self-proclaimed team dad instead took the opportunity to exhibit what a true team player he is. He responded, "There's a chance my role can shift this year from a true lead-off hitter to more of a middle of the lineup guy, which I'm excited for. I've always cared more about getting on base but this year I'd like to provide more of a power focus, regardless of my position in the lineup. The expectation is to have a lot of our guys making an impact this year. There may be positions with rotating starters, and I'd hope to make an impact on the young guys getting acclimated to college baseball. Trying to be the best leader possible is hard; I'm sure if you asked some of the guys they'd refer to me as the dad of the team, so maybe I need to work on a little balance."

> **″...From practice so far our expectations are really high.″**

When discussing the Centennial Conference Preseason Poll, in which Muhlenberg was projected to come in 7th place, Hebert stated that the team was not surprised but just "extremely eager to get outside and prove something. Being picked third to last isn't a surprise, just a free bit of motivation."

As the Mules continue to prepare for the upcoming season and work to prove the haters wrong, Hebert believes, "We have a relatively balanced team this year between new faces and returning starters. We had a few freshmen make an impact last year that I'd still consider rookies given how short and different the season was last year. Even most of our senior class has played less than a full season, but from practice so far our expectations are really high."

Reflecting on his career at Muhlenberg, two memories stand out to Hebert the most. "The first thing that comes to mind is our yearly spring training trip to Central Florida. Obviously missing this experience last year, we're all really excited to get another opportunity to play in the warm weather and have that experience together as a team."

Hebert also spoke about his experience making the playoffs and experiencing the Centennial Conference postseason. "Unfortunately I missed my entire first year with an injury and didn't get to participate, but it was still an awesome team experience."

Fellow veteran, Donovan Brady '22, believes the roster constructed right now can cause some noise this season, "We have a lot of talented guys this year as a pitching staff with great chemistry. Many guys are gonna have opportunities to go out and help win games and it's gonna be awesome to see everyone competing on the field. The whole team energy is high and we are just excited to start playing this year."

The Mules will open spring play Feb. 26, as they will travel to our nation's capital to compete in the Gallaudet Bison Classic.

Ryan Hebert '22 swings at home plate.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Feb. 17 - Feb. 24

Men's Tennis
MUHLENBERG
vs
SWARTHMORE
Sat, Feb. 19 @ 10:00 a.m.
Deitrich Field House

Women's Basketball
MUHLENBERG
vs
WASHINGTON COLLEGE
Sat, Feb. 19 @ 2:00 p.m.
Chestertown, Md.

Men's Basketball
MUHLENBERG
vs
WASHINGTON COLLEGE
Sat, Feb. 19 @ 4:00 p.m.
Chestertown, Md.

Women's Tennis
MUHLENBERG
vs
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL
Sun, Feb. 20 @ 12:00 p.m.
Lancaster, Pa.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

"Love Letter to Blackness Gala" closes Black History Month celebration

read more on 6

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Paige dropping truths and dishing dirt

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Paige's Page

SPORTS

Women's lacrosse begins season

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Cedar Beach Park incident shakes students

Photo by Rebecca Clark '23

By Cydney Wilson
Managing Editor

CONTENT WARNING: This article contains information regarding gun violence.

In the early evening on Monday, Feb. 21, the sound of gunfire could be heard on Muhlenberg's campus. Initial reactions were a mix of confusion and fear. At 5:53 p.m., Muhlenberg's Omnilert system sent out a 911 alert:

"Crime Notice: Shots Fired at Cedar Beach Park. Allentown Police informed Campus Safety of an off-campus shooting incident. Check email for details."

Paltry information was provided in the email, but the community was alerted that, "At approximately 5:30, Allentown Police informed Campus Safety of a shooting incident between two vehicles at Cedar Beach Park. The suspects have fled the scene via North Ott Street, and the area is no longer considered dangerous. A police presence is still in place at the scene, and an investigation is ongoing. A shooting incident occurred between drivers and/or passengers in two vehicles: a red Honda and a white hatchback of unknown make and model. Police have not reported any injuries at this time."

Matthew Baresh '25 shared, "My friend Josh [Botel '25] and I went to the park to play volleyball because it was a nice day out and thought it would be a good use of our time. There were so many people and families walking around, playing basketball and enjoying the nice weather. I remember hearing the loud bangs and originally not thinking anything of it until I saw everyone running and the noises continued. My heart instantly dropped and my friend and I immediately ran in the opposite direction, like we were in fight or flight mode. It wasn't until we were a safe distance away that we fully realized what had just happened."

Additional rumors circulated that a stray bullet may have hit Benfer Hall. These, however, seem to be unfounded. The Allentown Police Department (APD) released a statement which read, "Upon arrival, officers located casings on the scene. There were no physical injuries or property damage." In addition, a reporter for The Weekly circled the hall and didn't find any obvious damage.

On Tuesday, Feb 22., Chief Charles Roca of the APD announced in a statement on Facebook Live that a suspect, Carlos Medina, a 25 year old Allentown resident, had been arrested on multiple charges: "Firearms not to be carried without a license, which is a felony, terroristic threats, simple assault by physical menace, reckless endangering, and disorderly conduct."

The College had planned a shelter in place/lock-down drill to occur this week, which was postponed to the week of Mar. 7 due to the events at the park.

Another Muhlenberg student, Grace Oddo '22, shared her experience at the time of the event. "I was interviewing a student for a web story, and all of a sudden we hear a series of loud pops coming from the Rose Gardens. The fact that I automatically assumed it was gunfire shows just how scary of a world we live in. We tried to continue the interview as normal but then a second round erupted. At this point, we see the cop cars from Campus Safety pull out of the parking lot and speed down the street, their sirens blaring. Everyone in Parents Plaza was frozen, I assume in fear. It felt like time had stopped. Afterwards, me and Rachelle Montilus ['24]... went down to the lawn that faced Cedar Beach [Park]. The air was thick with gun smoke, along with a really potent smell. We sat in silence and watched the chaos. Neither of us had any words."

Bridget Palermo '25 and Daisy Cunningham '25 had decided to go for a walk in the park to soak in the weather after their late afternoon classes.

Palermo shared that, "There was a giant group of people on the basketball court and then there were a lot of kids on the playground."

See **SHAKES** page 6

SEE PAGE 4

Memories Project: toward diversity

Photo by Muhlenberg Memories Project

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Alex Caban-Echevarria	Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

02/14/2022
The Village: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset.

M.I.L.E. House: Report of sick student Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

02/15/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of fire alarm from accidental pull station pull, system silenced and reset.

02/16/2022
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from possible cooking spray, system silenced and reset.

02/17/2022
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

Prosser Hall: Report of theft of bag from hallway, no suspects at this time, investigation to continue.

02/18/2022
Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

Seegers Union: Report of theft of items from office, investigation to continue.

Seegers Union: Report of found key and AirPods, items placed in lost and found locker.

Martin Luther Hall: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival Campus Safety Officers noted faint smell of marijuana, area checked, paraphernalia found in room, individuals identified and spoken to.

02/19/2022
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

Martin Luther Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

Gordon Street (2200 BLK): Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

Benfer Hall: Report of antenna found on ground, item placed in lost and found on ground, item placed in lost and found locker, Unlimited Technologies notified to repair.

Walz Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

02/20/2022
Leh Street (400 BLK): Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

Check out what's new at the GQ!
FEATURED FOR A LIMITED TIME:
• Mediterranean Veggie Wrap
• Monterey Black Bean Burger
@BERGDINING
Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS

Senior ballin′ on a budget

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CIARLA

Seniors glam it up for the Senior Ball in 1960.

BY SARAH O'SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

The crowd assembled for the graduation ceremony in the PPL Center erupts in cheers as President Harring shares her congratulations for the class of 2022. To celebrate, the students toss their caps into the air, marking their new status as college graduates by throwing a $74.95 cap away.

In general, college is an expensive endeavor, but after you paid your final tuition bill you are still left with the cost of graduation itself. The $74.95 price tag includes a gown as well as the cap and is a requirement for walking during the graduation ceremony, but these are not the only costs associated with commencement. In order for families to visit for graduation, they often have to pay travel costs to come to the PPL Center in addition to at least one night in a hotel room since graduation proceedings begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Hotels in Allentown for graduation weekend range anywhere from $76 to $427 a night. Muhlenberg's "senior week" tradition—the week preceding commencement—includes a variety of free experiences such as a champagne brunch and baccalaureate, but the senior ball typically comes with a pretty hefty price tag.

For example, previous senior balls were held at venues such as the Woodlands Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Not only would students have to cover the cost for the ticket, as well as a ticket for a guest, but there were additional costs such as transportation to and from the venue and accommodations in the Wilkes-Barre area.

This year, the senior ball is being held on campus, as it has been for the previous two years due to COVID. While many students believed this was due to COVID restrictions, the main reason for the decision to hold senior ball on campus was the financial burden it had been causing seniors.

Allison Williams, dean of students, says they always planned to eventually shift senior ball to campus, but as the prices of event venues in the area have increased during the pandemic the move was expedited.

"There was this disparate gap between what it was costing and what students could really afford," explained Williams. "Seniors in previous classes have brought it forth as a really important issue. What is the best way for us to celebrate as a class? Students didn't want to have a portion of the class not there because they couldn′t afford to be there, or they can′t afford for their date to be there or what have you. And so that was an important consideration in bringing it to campus."

"I'm not too excited about having senior ball on campus," says Nayah Acosta '22, one of many students who aren't thrilled about the switched location.

Acosta notes that since this is the senior class' last big event, and past classes have been able to go to more lavish event venues, it feels like a disappointment to have the event in Memorial Hall.

Others, such as Alex Whittington ′22, are just excited to have the event at all. "As cool as it would be to have it off-campus, it will be what we make it, and it's nice that we won't have to pay for it if it's on campus." Whittington adds that they did a great job decorating for inauguration, transforming the gym into a beautiful event space. Since there′s no cost to rent out spaces, the budget is bigger for aspects of senior ball such as DJs, photographers, photobooths and more elaborate decorations to disguise the gym.

Acosta adds that while she was initially disappointed, her main priority now is to have fun with friends. "It's our last semester together and I don't want to be worrying."

Other students, like Brandon Herbst '22, are relieved by the switch to on-campus, noting they would not have been interested in going if the event was expensive. "I don't really care about the location, my main priority is good food and hanging out with friends," says Herbst. "If it cost[s] money I probably wouldn't go."

Students are also able to apply for emergency grants or experiential learning grants, which are intended to allow students to engage in co-curricular and community aspects of the College, including experiences like senior week.

"A lot of young alums who donate to the college donate specifically back to this fund, because now they know about it," says Williams. "They can't afford to give $1,000, but they'd really love to sponsor a cap and gown for somebody." If you need financial assistance with the cost of graduation, applications for experiential learning and/or emergency grants can be found on the Muhlenberg College website.

Devon Powers predicts the future

BY ALEX BLUM
MANAGING EDITOR

In Seegers Union's Great Room, on Tuesday, Feb. 15, Devon Powers, Ph.D., associate professor of advertising and public relations at Temple University was featured as the 2022 Sue Curry Jansen Honors lecturer.

From the moment she stepped onto the stage, following an introduction from both Irene Chien, Ph.D., director of the media and communication honors program, and Michael Buozis, Ph.D., assistant professor of media and communication, Powers' energetic and enthusiastic self came to light.

Taking the podium in front of Muhlenberg's media and communication faculty members and perhaps future honors students, Powers could not stand still.

After quickly stopping to take off her black velvet jacket, throw it off to the side and roll up her sleeves, Powers was ready to commence the lecture.

Titled "How to Forecast the Future: Culture Industries and the Pursuit and Production of the Future," it marked the first in-person media and communication honors lecture since before the pandemic. Powers immediately engaged the audience with her clear voice and the active use of her hands.

"It was a great honor to be invited to give the Sue Curry Jansen [Honors] lecture. It was particularly special as I was told it was the first time that faculty and students had gathered in person since the pandemic," Powers said.

Similarly, Chien was honored to facilitate the organization of the event and ultimately bring Powers to campus. "It has been extremely difficult to plan in-person events during the pandemic, so being able to host Powers in the media and communication department in-person, to share spontaneous conversations and to see her engaging students, faculty and staff in all the open-ended, interstitial spaces that make up Muhlenberg campus life, was a true pleasure," she said.

As the author of several books on the topic of trend forecasting, which according to Powers is a "cultural industry whose central purpose is to predict the future by identifying, anticipating and marketing trends to corporate clients," her focus remains on broader cultural trends.

She moved speedily through her slides with excitement to share her experiences. Having conducted over 70 interviews with trend forecasting executives for her book "On Trend: The Business of Forecasting the Future," Powers' expertise in the rather unknown field was apparent.

Offering insight and simplifying the multi-million dollar industry that offers "research, strategic advisement and foresight," students and faculty alike could be seen scribbling or typing notes and making sense of this new field.

Attending the event for an accounting class that requires presence at three professional activities throughout the semester and a subsequent report, Levi Roush '24 was extremely interested in Powers' conversation about the trend forecasting industry. "Honestly, I don′t think I knew that trend forecasting was a possible career field and that in itself interested me," he said.

Like Roush, Cara Palumbo '23, who was attending the event for a class in addition to being a media services assistant, was similarly intrigued by Powers' discussion. "I thought it was an interesting topic [and] I did think her enthusiasm helped make the topic more interesting. There's nothing worse than teaching something you're not enthusiastic about," Palumbo said.

In addition to her keen ability to clearly articulate the science of forecasting, it was Powers' unique sense of style and charisma that had a profound effect on audience members like Roush. "Her energy on the stage was so engaging and really made me want to listen and learn from her. Also, her outfit was so cool, and—dare I say—trendy," Roush said.

With a newfound interest in the developing field of trend forecasting, Roush was particularly taken aback by some of Powers' findings and was left thinking about what a future in the industry potentially looks like.

"I really loved Dr. Powers′ anecdote at the beginning of her lecture about her visit to The Future Laboratory in London. It seemed like a really cool, 'trendy' office space, which makes sense since it′s an organization that specializes in trend forecasting. It got me thinking [that] I would love to work in that kind of environment if I were to ever have an 'office job,'" he said. "The lecture left me wanting to learn more about the career pathway of trend forecasting."

Unlike Roush, Palumbo was left eager to learn more about forecasting and the way that it works in practice. "I would have liked it if she talked about forecasting methods rather than just forecasting itself [and the] methods she recommends when forecasting," she said.

Nonetheless, Powers' visit not only involved her teaching and enlightening the Muhlenberg community, but it was a time of learning for herself as well. Characterizing her trip to Allentown, Powers reflected upon the experience and spoke

SEE **POWERS** PAGE 6

Career Center employees resign en masse

By Matthew Klinger
Staff Writer

The Career Center is facing a possible staffing shortage after many of their employees have announced they will be resigning from their posts. For some, it comes down to the convenience of being able to work remotely, something that is not possible due to the nature of the work at the Career Center. As Emma Hamm ‘10 said, “The departures are coincidentally happening simultaneously and those of us who are leaving are doing so for varied reasons. For me, I enjoy working from home and will be working from home full-time for an educational technology company.”

Sean Schofield, executive director of career services, is proud of those pursuing other opportunities saying, “I am excited that they are practicing what they coach students and alumni to do each day.”

Those that are leaving their posts had nothing but positive things to say about their time working at Muhlenberg. Samantha Hof, career center director of employer engagement, said that her “time working at Muhlenberg was the best!”

Schofield echoed that sentiment saying, “Quite honestly, Muhlenberg is a family. I have worked at three other institutions, and none rival the feeling of camaraderie and support that I′ve experienced here. This institution has something very special, and I think that it′s reflected throughout the students, faculty, staff and alumni and it′s why so many folks remain connected to Muhlenberg for life.”

Hamm noted that her experience working at Muhlenberg has made her appreciate her time as a student even more. She said that, “This place is so special to me and I will miss a lot about it. Working here opened my eyes to all the time and effort faculty and staff put into making the student experience as valuable and enjoyable as possible. Seeing this behind the scenes work made me appreciate my four years as a student even more than I did before. I’m grateful that I will remain connected to Muhlenberg as an alumna.”

The College has upheld that the changes in staffing will not change the Career Center’s operations. Ryan Smolko, one of the remaining staff members at the Career Center and director of career coaching and education, said, “Some positions have already been filled and will be starting shortly. Others are posted, and interviews will start soon. We are excited to bring in a new group of professionals that will have a high level of expertise and resources to help Muhlenberg students and continue the high level of work that has been done.”

Even with the staffing shortage, there is “currently no wait time for students to meet with a staff member in the office,” according to Smolko. He also mentioned that in addition to relaunching the Career Road Trips program, a networking opportunity where students meet with several employers in various cities, a few new initiatives will be launched in the fall, though details about them are not yet finalized.

Photo Courtesy of Ryan Smolko′s LinkedIn

Brooke Leon ‘23 is excited for the road trip opportunities saying, “I know that when I was a freshman I really wanted to go on a road trip, but I was in class during that time so I wasn’t able to go.” She is also eager about the new programs that the Career Center is launching. “It is a great way to better support students and I hope they can provide more workshops and have people come in to speak about their respective professions and have hands-on opportunities,” she said.

The launching of new programs in the fall indicates that the distribution of funds from the Boundless Campaign is not being impacted by the recent staff changes. President Harring provided an update, saying, “The funds being raised for the Career Center through the Boundless campaign directly support student experiences—career road trips, internships, externships, projectships and low- and no-pay internships. These are vital financial resources to ensure all of our students have access to these important experiences and are a priority of the campaign.”

Despite the challenges that come with the changing economy, Schofield is confident in the administration’s ability to help Muhlenberg thrive. As he said at the end of his interview, “All of higher education is experiencing considerable change right now, and I believe that I′m in a fortunate position because rather than try to hide that or gloss over it, our leadership is focused on using a mixture of data and interpersonal feedback to inform decisions and keep this institution grounded in our history yet focused on our future.”

Memories Project shares history of Black experiences at ‘Berg

By Matthew Baresh
Asst. News Editor

History was made last week as a new page was added to The Muhlenberg Memories Project website pertaining to diversity. The Muhlenberg Memories Project is a collection of pages covering a wide variety of topics, including the history of buildings on-campus to the Allentown Band. Each page features a collection of videos, images and text to serve as an archive and share the history of the College. The “toward diversity” tab is the website’s newest addition that shares the experiences of Black people here on campus over the span of nearly a century.

The website was put together by Susan Falciani Maldonado, special collections & archives librarian at Trexler Library, Kate Ranieri, Ph.D., assistant professor in the media & communication department, Anthony Dalton, digital cultures technologist, Samantha Brenner ‘21 and Hailey Petrus ‘23, Black Students Association president. The event was hosted by Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., assistant professor of the English and Africana studies departments, and Roberta Meek, lecturer in the media & communication department.

The unveiling of the page was celebrated on Feb. 15 through a Zoom call with over 80 participants, including multiple Black alumni from the 1970s who provided oral histories and pictures for the website.

“I think we were all very, very pleased with how the launch event went,” shared Falciani Maldonado. “One of our primary goals was to bring the alumni from the 1970s into communication with our current students and other current community members, and I think they truly enjoyed the experience. The event was enhanced by how many of their fellow alumni from the decade attended as guests. I think that increased the connection they felt to the College during this event.”

“For being a Zoom event, it was one of the most exuberant, especially because so many shared their thoughts and experiences so graciously,” said Ranieri.

The oral histories were a new addition to the website that brought a direct and personal way to share the experiences of the Black alumni.

Ranieri explained, “I’m deeply honored to be able to work with students, teaching them the theory and practice of capturing oral history. The oral histories we have acquired provide such more depth and understanding to our understanding of Black students′ experiences in the 60s and 70s.”

The Zoom call consisted of an introduction to the new “toward diversity” page followed by a description of the overall goal of the new project and the process of creating the archive.

“I hope that the site will provide a starting point for current and future Black students to get ‘caught up’ on the work and experiences that have come before,” said Falciani Maldonado. “That they can see that they and their work are part of a continuum of activism and change. I hope it will be helpful for them to incorporate knowledge of initiatives and tactics of the past into their efforts to change the present and future. And the same goes for college administration. The nature of a college is that the student body turns over every four years, and administration and staff move in and out through the decades. I hope that the site will help provide an overview that helps inform future change.”

Dalton shared, “There are so many stories to be explored. Even more to be unearthed. The more stories we have—the more lived experiences we capture—the more we can learn from that experience. In our research, we found so many stops and starts, so many do-overs and a smattering of blunders, and I can′t help but feel that if good, experiential history was documented and shared openly, some of these setbacks would never have happened. That maybe the College could have done better. We′re doing much better now than ever before, and now we have even a partial, collected history that shows that, but there′s plenty of room to grow.”

With hopes to bring about more conversation regarding diversity and inclusion, the website celebrated accomplishments such as the Educational Opportunity Pilot Program, a program to enroll more Black students on campus, and its creation of the Africana studies minor and the Office of Multicultural Life. The alumni shared a heartwarming reunion on Zoom with some of them being close friends from almost 50 years ago. The “toward diversity” addition to the website has proved to be a push in the right direction towards a diverse campus that has a strong understanding of the campus’ history.

Petrus shared, “The voice of the alumni and being able to clearly understand their experience was extremely important to my research and there couldn′t be a better way to show that than through their lens. This website will help push for diversity on campus in the coming future because I believe seeing it has raised more awareness and curiosity across campus. A lot more students are interested in being a part of this project and researching even more aspects of the campus.”

“All too often we′re left with historical facts. But that′s not what our work—this project—is all about,” remarked Dalton. “Oral histories, the project the Muhlenberg Memories Project as a whole is all about rehumanizing history.”

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.”
- Langston Hughes

Storytime by the fireside

Photo by Keanna Peña ‘25

By Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant

The New Play Reading Series (NPRS) was a two-day event that took place over the weekend, Feb. 19 and Feb. 20. The event showcased a multitude of student plays. This is an annual event held by the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA) every spring semester. It serves as a workshop event for plays to be read out loud to an audience in order to hear how they function and work. Playwrights submitted an excerpt of their piece and eleven plays were selected. The coordinator of NPRS, Johnny Veglia ‘24 explained, “In order to showcase as many pieces as possible, we showcased each play for roughly twenty to twenty five minutes. If the play was longer than the allotted amount of time, then playwrights submitted an excerpt of their play to be read.”

As a whole, the event was a success. Veglia expressed, “It was a great time both Saturday and Sunday! We had a great turnout on both dates, especially Saturday, and it was so great to hear the audience responses. I think all the playwrights offered excellent plays and directors and performers did a wonderful job of having the words jump off the page. I also have to thank the lovely Hannah Verdun [‘24], the MTA production manager, who helped make sure the event went smoothly and helped me with any issues or problems. Gabi McCabe [‘24] was also a major help and Greg Wilson [‘24] with his wonderful projector and sheet. It was a blast and I hope audiences enjoyed the plays.”

McCabe, the Inclucivity & Equity Coordinator for the MTA, read through the texts and created content warnings for the performances. She plays a crucial role in observing casting and play selection, and acts as a second opinion to see that things run smoothly. She commented that, “As someone who reads the texts multiple times throughout the process, it’s wonderful to see the works being performed and brought to life by the actors. NPRS is a great lower stakes opportunity that offers students a space to learn and share their talents with the Muhlenberg community.”

Julianne Lucas ‘24, the writer for “Gay for Saturday” (directed by Ava Pirie ‘23), explained that she wrote the piece last semester in a playwriting class. “All I had to do was dust it off and look it over again to submit it.” She commented how great the event was, and said, “It was amazing to get feedback based on the audience’s reactions. I was able to find out which jokes were landing, which were not and which lines unexpectedly made people laugh. I also got feedback from the actors on what felt natural to them and what felt forced.”

An actor from “Gay for Saturday,” Arden McHugh ‘25, expressed that “NPRS is really fun because it’s so collaborative! We had a really short rehearsal process so when the cast, director and writer got together in a rehearsal space we all wanted to make as many creative choices as possible so we could narrow down what’s working and what wasn’t. Like rapid fire rehearsals. It was also really fun to have writers in the room because that’s so rare. We as a cast were able to give feedback and help them work out the kinks of the dialogue. It was really fun to work with texts that weren’t yet formed and solidified.”

Amelie Parczany ‘25, actor in Kira Wiener’s ‘25 “Untitled,” also expressed how collaborative the process was. “Kira did a great job with presenting us her play and assisting us, but also asking for feedback and taking our feedback into consideration. She gave us some clarifications to how she envisioned her play and each character, but also allowed us to interpret the play as we wished, so it was a nice balance.”

As a whole, the event was a success, and allowed writers and actors alike to get the chance to showcase their talents for a more intimate audience. Lucas said “I’m just very grateful to have had an opportunity for my work to be read in a lowkey setting, because it allows me to workshop it further in case I want to go on to do a larger production of it in the future.”

Guest Artist Workshop: Benjamin Shaw ‘07

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

On Friday, Feb. 19, the department of theatre and dance held a discussion-based workshop with alumni artist Benjamin Shaw ‘07. Shaw is a freelance director with credits across multiple mediums in the performing arts. The workshop was titled “Charting a Professional Path in the Performing Arts.” Over the course of the afternoon, he described pulling from a variety of experiences directing and assisting on plays in New York, Florida, Washington and Minnesota, but the starting point of the discussion would be the pilot episode of “Kinsley Vs.,” a new web series.

As a handful of students filed into the Baker Center for the Arts Recital Hall, Shaw presented a welcoming aura, asking each person’s name and making lively conversation in the minutes leading up to the discussion.

Shaw passed out a double-sided document, which contained the first two pages of the script for “Kinsley Vs.” From there, he engaged the audience in an active reading of the material, in which analyses of writing techniques, production cues and other logistical and financial constraints involved with the making of this series were brought to light.

“I was especially interested in Benjy’s perspective on fundraising and crowdfunding specifically as I am currently grappling with similar fundraising challenges in my non-

see **SHAW** page 7

"A Love Letter to Blackness Gala"

Photo by Rachel Fuchs '23

The Mayhem Step Team performing at the gala

By Ian Clark
Asst A&C Editor
& Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant

Muhlenberg College has been celebrating Black History Month this February through a multitude of on-campus events. The Africana studies program, the Black Students Association (BSA), and the Office of Multicultural Life have all worked together to bring the student body events that celebrate and teach Black history. From a presentation of poetry and love letters to a detailed history of Black experiences at Muhlenberg, the College orchestrated a wide range of events to celebrate. Earlier this weekend, on Feb. 20, the concluding event was held, "A Love Letter to Blackness Gala."

The gala brought together different voices from around campus and the Lehigh Valley to exhibit and celebrate Black art, culture and love, serving as a great capstone to a month of extraordinary events.

The event began with Richeta Cubano '24, who performed her spoken-word piece, "Young, Gifted and Black" and a remix of the poem. The Rejoice! Gospel Choir, directed by Eric Thompson '10, did a rendition of "Storm is Passing Over." It was followed by a speech from keynote speaker, Hasshan Batts, DHSc, M.S.W, executive director of Promise Neighborhoods of Lehigh Valley, which is a group that focuses on improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley.

Attendee Ashley Owuso '25 said, "My favorite part of the Black Excellence Gala was the guest speaker, Hasshan Batts. I thought it was very touching how he brought up how people should empower Black women because they are the ones who set the foundation for us to be able to do certain things today."

Another attendee, Kassandra Prado-Escalante '25 said, "I loved the way [Batts] spoke, and how he made the speech so personal to his life while also making it applicable to everyone, but especially to African American young people."

Following the keynote speaker was a short ceremony presenting the Diversity Awards. These awards are given annually to a student, staff/faculty and community leader who works to address issues of diversity, inclusion and liberation through various practices.

The Ella Baker Award: Counselor was given to Aliya Kenyatta, a therapist working at the Counseling Center. The Langston Hughes Award: Renaissance was given to Zaire Carter '22, Student Government Association president. The Kathleen Cleaver Award: Inspiration was given to Hailey Petrus '23, the BSA president. Finally, the Maya Angelou Award: Fierce was given to Karen Britt, Ed.D., founder of the Lehigh Valley Juneteenth Celebration.

The Mayhem Step team also took the stage at the gala. Owuso said, "I thought [their] performance was very beautiful. Whenever you hear step, most people think of it as just stomping and clapping. However it's more than just that, it's a way to express yourself through body movements in clapping, stomping and more."

Neveah Everett '25 joined in Owuso's opinion, "The step show is my favorite part because it gives you a sense of culture on campus. In a [predominantly white institution], we don't always have a safe area to express ourselves. They also performed incredibly well."

Captain of the Mayhem Step team, Matthew McCray '24, was proud of the team's performance as well. "It felt great to perform back on stage with my team. Having this captain position comes with great responsibility but I'm so grateful I have a team who backs me up with powerful energy. The event went well, I believe the sense of pride was really showcased throughout the entire showcase."

Their performance was followed by Naava Wilson '25, singing Corinne Bailey Rae's "Put Your Records On" and ended with a moving poem by Mustafa Hall '23, which is published in the op-ed section of this week's issue.

Wilson described her time at the event as a "wonderful experience... It felt great to perform, it's the second time I've ever been by myself on stage to sing and play guitar and I really enjoy it... I think this was a great way to end the events for the month by showing the artistry and passion of our own Black students... I hope to continue celebrating our Black community."

BSA Vice President Bianca Bolt '23 also reflected on the event and the celebration of Black History Month in general, saying, "I think it was a good finish to [Black History Month] because it acknowledged the people who do a lot for this school and around the Allentown area. People don't do things to get rewards but it helps knowing you're appreciated."

Audience members expressed how wonderful the gala was and the lasting effect it had on them. Prado-Escalante said, "I had a great time listening to, not just the people on stage, but also the discussions that happened after these events about what we just saw. I think that the legacy of these [Black History Month] events is that it naturally generates conversations among students who choose to attend."

Hall said, "I think the gala was a perfect way to end Black History Month because it not only embodied the diversity of Blackness that we have on this campus but also the power of Black unity, love and creativity."

McCray agreed and concluded saying, "I think that the event shined a light in understanding that this month of February is not the only month we should celebrate Black History. I'm Black all 365 days of the year, so therefore, I will celebrate my Blackness every single day."

From **SHAKES** page 1

Cunningham said, "We were about to walk across the pond when we heard all these popping noises all of a sudden. And I had never heard gunshots before, so I was like 'What's that?' Everyone on the basketball court scattered, and I was like 'Run...' We booked it. We didn't know where the gunshots were coming from. There were a lot of them... We hid behind a tree and then we heard more shots from right behind us. We tried to call the police but they didn't pick up, we assume because everyone was trying to call the police."

Palermo continued, "The shots stopped and then they started again so we started running again, and that's when we ran to go hide under a bridge... When we were running from behind the tree to the bridge I saw the white car that they think is one of the shooters. I saw a white car drive in the parking lot that we had literally been in like four seconds before."

The two students called campus safety and asked to be picked up from the park, which campus safety agreed to, but hung up the phone before the students could provide their exact location. Palermo and Cunningham ended up walking back to campus, and called campus safety to let them know. At this time, they were asked for any details they might have witnessed.

"It sounded like it was coming from every direction. It was really scary," Cunningham added. "It felt like a nightmare. I felt like I was running in a nightmare. I didn't have control over my body, it just started running. And then I was so out of breath but I was just still running and there were still gunshots going off and it felt like a really terrible nightmare."

Palermo commented on the time of day, and the noticeably darkening sky. "It felt like I could feel the world change. And I will never [expletive] be the same."

From **POWERS** page 3

highly of the students she met and specifically, the time spent with Chien's cohort of 2022 media and communication honors students following the lecture.

In all their meaningful time together, Chien also spoke highly of Powers and her ability to captivate the audience. "Devon Powers is a smart, funny and generous thinker and exuberantly communicates how exciting scholarly media & communication research can be. I could see light bulbs go off in the responses of my first-year students for whom this was their first time attending a lecture by a visiting scholar. And she listened and spoke so attentively and directly to all the questions directed towards her during Q&A," Chien said.

Creating artistic “eras” with handmade earrings

By Faith Bugman
Staff Writer

It’s nearly 60 degrees and rainy in late February, but Maddi Whiting ‘23 (she/they) arrives at the lower level of Seegers Union with an enthusiasm that shines through the dreary weather. Wearing a chic pair of tan and green earrings, she settles down on the couch, eager to talk about her newfound success in her small business where she creates fashionable art that one can hang from their ears.

In the spring of 2020, Whiting began creating unique polymer clay earrings and selling them online. Her mother had dabbled in jewelry making, and during such a screen-filled time, Maddi was looking for something different to do. And so, she picked up some old clays, worried they’d simply crumble, and got to work. A sophomore at the time, she had no high expectations for what her “hobby” may become, and, two years later, finds herself co-owning a small business which sells worldwide and has (just recently) allowed her to pay off her student loans.

Whiting Designs (@whiting_designs on instagram, and @whitingdesignsshop on TikTok), however, did not appear overnight. Whiting recognizes the importance—and difficulty—of consistency when creating both physical products and digital profiles to promote them. The payoff is when something miraculous happens, like when a TikTok of hers went viral this week, reaching over one million views and 300,000 likes. Or better yet, when she sees followers interacting with the artistic side of her product.

Over the last couple of months, Whiting has had three successful launches, but her biggest thrill is seeing others enjoying her style; creating a community where people appreciate her “niche,” and she encourages others to pursue their own.

“ALWAYS buy small business… if you can,” she insists passionately.

There is a community that is inevitably created in supporting a personable business, and it’s strengthened by social media. People are able to revel in their shared aesthetics, interests, and respects and it is a beautifully validating feeling.

Whiting adores it. She has both become part of and built a unique community that reaches so far beyond herself and her mother; to Iceland, Australia, Canada, Germany, and nearly all 50 states.

She looks forward to continuing her artistic process and hopefully taking inspiration from popular musical artists, but also focusing on staying original and true. “The earrings create something tangible that resembles memories for concerts people went to and the joy that they had in that moment.”

Whiting thinks one of the most important things is quality, accuracy and vision. Whiting is willing to sit and make 20 color swatches to perfectly match the color she wants. Seeing the finished product, and seeing it on a friend, a stranger, or a professor is enthralling. Better yet, she knows it′s going to last.

Her most recent and favorite “era” of artistic earrings, has been one inspired by Harry Styles and his outfits during his most recent tour. With a dreamy look in her eye, Whiting talked about the art in fashion and her love to play upon that paradox: “By capturing the concert [in colors and shapes], there is [also] an experience that is captured.”

Photo by Maddi Whiting ′23

WELCOME
APPLES
FAMILY

From **SHAW** page 5

profit marketing course as an arts administration student,” said Lauren Koranda ‘23, an attendee. “I have great respect for the boundaries he sets to ensure his crowdfunding is successful, especially in the midst of the financial barriers the pandemic has posed.”

Following the talkback about the web series pre-production, during production and post-production processes, Shaw took a seat in front of the group. He spoke about his experience taking on “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” as a theatre director, explaining that, “Eight shows a week is exhausting… but I never reached a point in that show where I didn′t love what I was doing.”

Shaw then discussed other details that have shaped his experience working in production and direction roles across artistic mediums, including the experience of working with child actors and the casting process for film and theatre.

“A career in the performing arts is hard, and it’s a lot of work,” explained Shaw, at the close of the workshop. “But I want you to know—and this is the most important thing-–it is very doable. Start by creating original work and make it something digestible, make it something that you know you can accomplish.”

This sentiment seemed to resonate with the audience. It sparked a short but lively conversation between Shaw and the attendees about the inherent differences between the theory-intensive work of attaining a degree in theatre versus the experience of gaining skills in the workplace and the pros and cons associated with each.

Koranda continued, “Hearing an alumni student validate that there is a path to a successful and dynamic career in storytelling post-grad was extremely energizing as a current Muhlenberg theatre student.”

“I thought overall it was super helpful,” explained Jaxson Goldsmith ‘23, another attendee. “I feel like the theater department does a good job at teaching about acting but sometimes lacks a bit in the professional development standpoint. Having a Muhlenberg alum who is currently working, and hearing about the project he is currently working on instead of his journey, was a nice pace change. It made me feel like the things I wanted to do were attainable and possible.”

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Reclaiming the gym as an eating disorder survivor

By Ky Dates
Contributing Writer

Most articles discussing the gym start with a hook about the writer forcing themself to start going regularly. My article starts with the opposite: I forced myself to stay away from the gym for over two years.

Okay, "forced" is too aggressive. In actuality, one of the first steps I took towards healing from my restrictive eating disorder was stepping away from my compulsive exercise, the home of that bad habit being the gym itself. A friend who was also in recovery posted on Instagram about not going to the gym during flare-ups and focusing on exercise that brings her joy. I started doing this through long walks, dance classes, and the occasional burst of push-ups and sit-ups. I learned to listen to my internal cues—what does hunger feel like in my body and mind? What do the desires to move and to rest feel like? I relearned that exercise can be joyous. Then the pandemic hit, and before being vaccinated, the gym was not an option for me. So, I spent over two years learning what movement means on my own terms, removed from the location of my compulsion, shame, and pressure.

Through social media, I gained access to intersectional educators and/or personal trainers whose practices include deconstructing body shame and diet culture. These educators taught me about intuitive movement—when a person learns to connect with their inner impulses and cues, exercising and moving from the desire to satisfy those cues rather than a cognitive idea of "I should do this" or "I'm supposed to do this." This practice comes from an anti-diet culture stance, instead supporting body neutrality, body positivity, and fat liberation.

Two months ago, my friend in a similar position to me mentioned that they started going to the gym again. That moment was like a notification in my brain, reminding me that the gym was an option. It was liberating to realize I could start fresh.

I heard my internal cues loud and clear—I wanted to go to the gym for fun.

I now go to the gym often, not out of compulsion, shame, or diet culture, but because it's enjoyable, relieves my anxiety, empowers my body, and strengthens my mind-body connection.

It has not been perfect. I am not here to push an "I'm better now and always happy!" message. I believe that people with eating disorders and disordered exercise patterns will always be in some form of recovery because recovery is patience, recovery is practice, recovery is indefinite repetition and remapping.

The other day, I finished my weight training and went to the elliptical for cardio—my typical routine. I immediately felt an internal cue of "I don't want to do this." Sometimes, once I get moving I realize I want to do it and have fun (internal cues are complicated when you've suppressed them for years). However, once I started moving I felt miserable doing the elliptical that day. Internalized biases rose to the surface: I imagined how other gym-goers might judge me for stopping

Photo by Ky Dates '22

Ky Dates '22 taking a walk in nature.

See **Reclaiming** page 9

The Sustainabili-tea at 'Berg

Claire Spenard
Contributing Writer

In the Spring of 2021, while most of my peers planned their return to Muhlenberg, I packed my bags for a three-month move to Hawaii. No plans, no expectations. I found myself immersed in a place where sustainability is at the core of everyone's values.

From my perspective, an Islander's relationship with the earth is a continuous cycle of give and take. The island and the people living with it share the same breath, inhaling and exhaling the sustenance of life in unison. The natural systems – earth, water, sun and rain – rule over all else, providing life. There is no choice but to give back.

I lived and worked on a property off-grid with no phone service, no buildings or stores, no hierarchy of productivity. It felt like a dream at first. I didn't know places like this still existed. It was anarchy in the best sense—the internal compass of society directed toward doing the right thing and collaborating with the earth. Within the whole world, I saw this Island as a microcosm of sustainability.

On my work-trade property, there was an event every Saturday known as "free-trade," which in this context, is an act of anti-consumerism and anti-waste. The occasion came alive as an exchange of ideas, skills, things, food and love. Everyone owns it, everybody puts in the work to continue it and everyone gets to benefit from it. Each week there was a discussion about how we can improve the space, make it more accessible and take action for the greater good. This practice exemplifies the intentions of sustainable living and provides a space where cooperative communities can thrive.

From my lived experiences I have developed an evolving definition of sustainability; a discipline in which choice-making holds the earth's best interests at heart and within each choice there is an applied awareness of how everything in our world interacts. I suggest that "free-trade" is an exercise in sustainability and that is why I brought the idea to Muhlenberg in the form of a clothing swap. Now, the newly reclaimed group on campus, "enACT" (the environmental action team) is taking this idea even further and building a foundation within our community for sustainability to grow.

Of course, it's easier said than done to put these values into practice. Even when we care about environmental action, there are a lot of factors in the way. A big joke of Muhlenberg is when you put something in the recycling and feel good about yourself then later see someone pooling it together with the trash. It leaves some of us asking ourselves, "Why do we even try?" The Muhlenberg website shares that our trash ends up in a waste-to-energy facility that produces "less CO2 per ton of garbage than a landfill." But what happens to recycling... And, if waste and recycling are all going to the same good place, then why the separate bins? Why does our administration perpetuate a facade and avoid transparency about what is really going on?

It appears from the website that changes to the recycling program have not been made since 2012. Administrative attention is long overdue. And recycling isn't the only thing; food waste is a pressing issue that is getting some attention from the Food Recovery Network club but not from the administration. The lack of transparency about these matters makes me wonder what else is hiding beneath the surface.

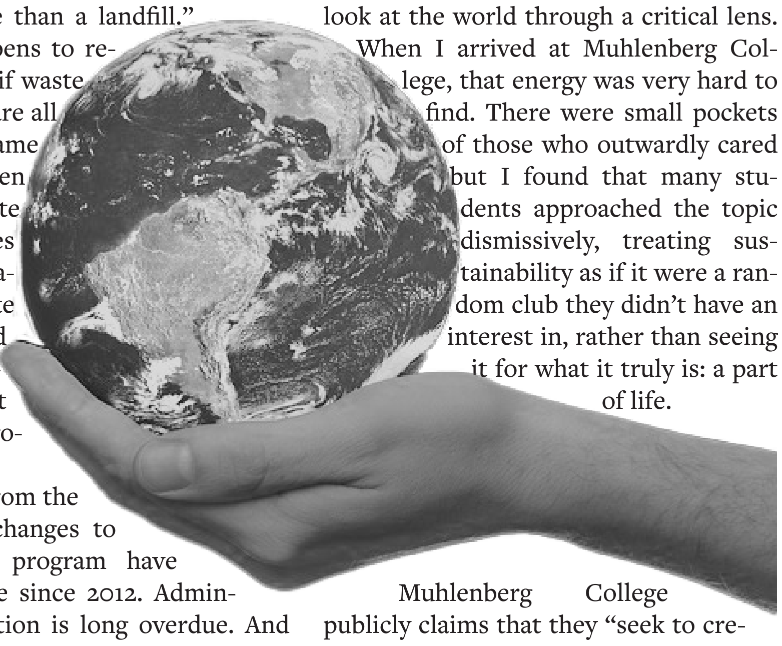

Photo by Max Pixel

Our institution must be responsible to promote solutions that encourage students to pursue environmental action. At the same time, we as students must make choices that contribute positively to the system that we benefit from, even if they inconvenience us. If both of these pillars —institutional, accountability and individual effort— are in place then we can proceed sustainably.

According to the 2021 NextGen Climate Survey, "83% of Gen Z youth worry about the planet's health." Many of us have awareness but don't translate it into action. Awareness alone is not enough. Luckily, collegiate institutions have the resources and privilege to serve as key players in sustainability efforts. Their student stakeholders are likely to be enlightened about the state of the planet and passionate about seeking change because they are actively learning how to look at the world through a critical lens.

When I arrived at Muhlenberg College, that energy was very hard to find. There were small pockets of those who outwardly cared but I found that many students approached the topic dismissively, treating sustainability as if it were a random club they didn't have an interest in, rather than seeing it for what it truly is: a part of life.

Muhlenberg College publicly claims that they "seek to create a culture on campus that supports sustainability" and there is a strategic plan in place that looks promising. I see the administration making good choices but I feel a lack of outreach to the student body. I crave a more collaborative relationship that lets everyone in; one that fosters environmental consciousness across the whole campus.

Let's get jazzed about it! How can we discuss sustainability on a deeper level and be realistic about what we can do? The answer is enACT: a completely collaborative system that brings ideas to life and builds a bridge between care and action. I feel hopeful about what lies ahead. Do you?

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Staff Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week's edition of Paige's Page! Relationships, as we have discussed a lot in this column, are incredibly difficult to navigate, and while incredibly important to have, sometimes hard to maintain. This week we are discussing friendships! I love this topic because when it comes to friends I have had to look really hard to find really good ones and that took a long time for me to be able to do. Let's get started!

Q **Hi Paige! I love my friends so much, but sometimes they do things that I don't agree with within their personal lives and it is really difficult for me to feel like I have to encourage them to do what they want to do. How do I stop judging my friends so harshly?**

Hey, bestie! This is a really great question! I very firmly believe that if someone is not asking you for advice, you don't give it to them, because a lot of the time what they probably need is just someone to listen to them and to love them. Sometimes people need to do irrational things and you need to let them (things that will not cause them harm). While you may not agree with their choices, they will likely do what they want to do anyway. Making mistakes is how you learn, so let them do what they feel they need to do and be the person they need to support them and lift them back up when they are down so they can learn for next time. Ultimately, that unconditional support, with an open understanding that you may not have the same feelings on some things, is what will keep your friends around you. I have a hard time remembering this sometimes, but ultimately the things that they are doing, they are doing to and for themselves. Their situation likely does not involve you or even other people, so just support them and be there for them, they will appreciate it so much even if at the time they know this is not how you would go about their situation. Set boundaries if you need to, be honest with them, but make sure that they know that you care.

Q **Hey Paige, I don't like my partner's friends and I don't think they like me very much either, but I feel like I have to be around them to keep my partner happy. Do I tell my partner or do I just suck it up and try to be their friend?**

Hi, bestie! I'm so sorry that this is happening to you! I think that ultimately you are going to have to—at the very least—be civil with their friends and spend time with them when you need to, but other than that you don't really need to become friends with them. Maybe try to keep an open mind! With this, please do not attempt to stop your partner from being around their friends or attempt to end their friendships with others, you each need your own friendships and being around people other than your partner is necessary. Bring your partner around your friends, maybe they will get along and you can allocate your time between both groups evenly. Their friendships are independent of your relationship and that is something that will not change. You can tell your partner about your problem with their friends, but this could potentially lead to problems within your relationship, and as long as they are not going out of their way to harm your relationship you can value their friendship to the person you care about.

Q **Hi Paige, should I be worried that my friends won't like me or think I don't care about them because I am really bad at reaching out?**

Hey, bestie! I don't know if you're anything like me, but I am an awful texter. Like, so bad. I am constantly so scared of losing my friends because of this. I love my friends so much, but they know that I am the worst at reaching out to them and they will not hold it against me when I don't. It is something I have actively been trying to get better at, and that is really all anyone can ask for. If you communicate with your friends and tell them how you struggle to do this, they will understand and maybe even try to help you do better. If they really are your friends, clearly they care about you, they will love you regardless of this flaw. It is really great that you notice this problem for yourself and holding yourself accountable makes you so strong. Don't worry too much, but work on it if you think it would be important for you too.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio: @paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree @bergweekly.

Listen Loudly

…

A creative space for marginalized voices

Forage through the timeline that is of me

By Mustafa Hall
Op/Ed Editor

Like cracked paint on a fossilized wall, I want
to peel, pick and uncover the memories of My Blackness
that embellish the inner makings
of my consciousness and
allow the air of my breath,

the air that spoon-feeds these nostalgic moments with
shimmer, infinity, and a deep sense of life, to slowly
expose the artifacts of the mind.

As each memory in time is pulled apart, I begin to see all of me.
I can see, taste, and exist with the ingredients of My Blackness.

I see the incense smoke of my orange bricked home.
The smoke that acts as the building blocks to all the
physical elements that exist and exhale in that space.

            I can see
          the
  dancing
                   and
     leaping
                of   the   smoke
as it displays images and vibrations
only those who reside here can decipher.

(With each scent,
a new fable is unlocked)

I see my mother, the woman
who was the first person to teach me
what real Black beauty is, braiding my
coils every night, nurturing my scalp with
Blue Magic, Black spirit, and vitality.

I see who I once was: A young gay Black boy

scared

anxious

lonely

broken

but was one who always grew flowers from the
palms of his chocolate hands
and whose blood was purple and gold.

The love letter to my Blackness
is written using the fingers of experience and
on the paper of time passed, and of time yet unknown.

From **Reclaiming** page 8

so quickly, how I wasn't pushing my body hard enough, etc. This was a return to old thinking patterns, but the moment of growth came in my response to it. I spoke back to those thoughts, and I stepped off of the machine. I stood still, taking time to listen to my body. It was difficult, buried under many "shoulds." After some time, it became clear what I wanted to do.

I walked over to one particular treadmill being hit with rays of sunlight from the golden hour on this cold winter day, and I took a leisurely walk. As I moved slowly and intentionally, I could feel my glutes and calves engaging to take me where I wanted to go, the sunlight shining down on my face and providing me with some much-needed vitamin D, my mind-expanding, my body releasing its pent up energy and my mind-body filling with joy and confidence.

Memorial Hall's lights go out

By Olivia Oberman
Contributing Writer

The Muhlenberg men's and women's basketball teams have officially wrapped up season play. Both teams faced great competition inside and outside of the Centennial Conference, allowing little room for any type of rest during the past few months. The majority of players on both teams lost anticipated time on the court last year, making the ability to play this past season memorable on its own—regardless of their records.

Tara Szawaluk '22, Margeux Eripret '22, Amanda Gorski '22 and Sarah Peretti '23 all recorded double figures in their last game and led the Mules to end their season with a big win against Washington College—collecting a 11-14 record.

Eripret noted, "This season was really special for the seniors because we finally got to have a full season after losing our junior year to COVID. We were just so happy to be playing again after such a long time."

Eripret continued, "As for next year, it's exciting to see the potential because there were games this year where we played really good team basketball and showed what we could do. Unfortunately, we just weren't consistent enough to end the season the way we had hoped. The underclassmen got a lot of experience under their belts and it's really exciting to think about what could happen next for us."

Emily Vaughn '25 said, "This season was full of challenges. We had to shut down for COVID and had a few team injuries. Despite that, we fought hard every practice and game. The freshman and sophomores never played in a college game before this season so the juniors and seniors really stepped up and set the time for the season."

Photo courtesy of Office of Communications

Giovanni Rubino '24 featured in the picture above.

The men's team completed Feb. 19 with a tightly-contested game against Washington College, ending in a 81-83 loss to tally their record at 9-16. They faced plenty of injuries prior to the season and during it, which made it difficult to develop consistency. However, these unfortunate circumstances allowed room for several underclassmen to seek key roles on the court.

Giovanni Rubino '24 says, "The highlight of the season had to be our win at Swarthmore, it shows that we are capable of competing with some of the best teams in the country."

The team's overall record is not indicative of the high quality competition that they faced and the talent which the team is composed of.

"All of the underclassmen got an opportunity to prove that they belong on the court this season, and I have a great feeling that this team will only continue to improve from here on out," notes former rookie of the year and preseason All-American Dan Gaines '22.

Playing a sport isn't always about the physicality of the sport itself but also the life lessons that come from being a part of a team. Nate Henty Brown '22 agrees with this statement and said, "As a senior looking back on my last four years I see now that being a part of a team is the confrontations that you have, it is the holding of your tongue and listening to others, it is the celebrating of the accomplishments of ours louder than your own, it is picking up your teammates when you yourself are down and finally it is doing things because they are the right thing to do and not because they are convenient."

Henty Brown continues, "So other than working on their respective games I would tell the guys that are returning to keep focusing on being good people and maintaining that sense of family within the locker room that we have fostered over the last four years."

Both teams have a lot of potential moving forward with great sets of returning athletes, who have clearly been under the impression of dedicated seniors.

Gaines offers a piece of advice to all of those returning players, "Time flies by, take advantage of all the opportunities that are given to you."

Women's lacrosse awaits return

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

This Wednesday, Feb. 23, the Muhlenberg women's lacrosse team played the first game of their season versus Moravian College at Scotty Wood Stadium. This will be the first time since the 2019 season that the women will be playing a complete 16-game regular season; their 2020 season was canceled after one game due to COVID-19 and the 2021 was a shortened seven-game season.

Midfielder Madeline Dill '22 spoke about how playing a full season for the first time in three years is going to be very different for everyone on the team, especially as the seniors are the only ones who have experienced a full season in their college career. "I think the seniors will have to step up and lead the younger girls on the team in ways we had never had to. Because we are essentially starting this team from scratch due to COVID, the seniors are in the position of creating new traditions and expectations for the whole team."

However, unlike fall sports who had their season's completely taken away last year, the team is in a good position as their juniors and sophomores do have experience playing collegiate lacrosse, despite it not being a full season last spring.

The 2021 season for the women's lacrosse team was not successful, as they finished with an overall record of 1-6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Madeline Dill '22 runs through the tunnel into the beginning of a new season.

Coming into this season, the team most certainly has higher hopes and expectations for how they plan to perform on the field. Head Coach Kristen Stuckel spoke about the hopes and goals for this season. "The team has put in many hours in the weight room, working on conditioning, bonding as a team and of course working on our stick work to be prepared! The players have also been tested with timed runs, game-like drills, situational play and even had refs come to a practice to be ready for a successful season. We have focused on knowing how to work hard until the end and encouraging each other at all times. The team is determined to stay in the moment and positive to play for the win. Playing, gritting and determined so they are 'All Out, All Game' [the team's motto for the season]. This will help us have a winning season and qualify for the conference playoffs."

To win games though, especially after a weak performance in 2021, there are many aspects of the game that the team needs to improve on. When talking about what the team needs to improve on to achieve a better record and hopefully contend for a championship this season, Stuckel said, "Last year we struggled with consistency. This was very difficult because many players had to quarantine because of COVID or being in close contact. Therefore it was tough to get into a flow on attack or defense or to know our roles when people were constantly missing. We are very fortunate to play in a highly competitive Div. III women's lacrosse conference, and compete against teams that are consistently ranked in the top 20 nationally. Last year we played a very shortened season and the teams that did participate in the conference were mostly the top nationally ranked teams, which gave us an extra challenge. Our team has been determined and dedicated since the end of last season to put in the extra time to have a successful season!"

From a player perspective, Dill also talked about what she and her teammates need to do better on the field to have a more successful season saying, "Our team as a whole needs to work on creating less turnovers for the opposing team to capitalize on. We have a tendency of panicking when our players have the ball, we need to work on keeping composure and having confidence in ourselves to do what we have been doing for years."

The goals and expectations for the team are set high for this season. Following the season opener at home versus Moravian, the Mules' next game will be a week later, Mar. 2, at home versus Lycoming College.

The case for quitting

Being a student-athlete commands a lot of dedication and sacrifice, a heavy toll for most.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Kassidy Stout '23 about to pass the ball.

By Ellsa Peabody
Contributing Writer

Kassidy Stout '23, number 40, stands on the free-throw line for her first-ever collegiate foul shots. It is her freshman season, and coming off of major success in her high school career, expectations are high. She takes her first shot. A miss. Second shot? Miss. Heart sinking slightly, Kassidy jogs back as the opposing team takes the ball. It was only two missed shots, how much would it really matter? But for Kassidy, this moment was the spark that led to over a year of questioning whether her commitment to playing basketball was worth the stress it caused.

Three years before, this same feeling of doubt was consuming Sarah Duffy '23, a freshman on the Saucon Valley High School women's basketball team and current Muhlenberg lacrosse player. She had a starting spot on the basketball team—something that many athletes strive to achieve their whole career. At her first high school scrimmage, it only took two minutes for Sarah to make a mistake that caused her coach to angrily pull her from the court. On the sideline, Sarah's motivation and excitement for the game began to plummet; basketball was not giving her the chance to have fun. Although a starting spot and playing time as a freshman would be enough to keep many on the team, Sarah wrestled with the idea that playing this sport may cause more negatives than positives.

More people quit a sport than one might think. Studies show that around 94 percent of kids have quit at least one sport in their lifetime. There are many reasons why people decide to withdraw from sports — lack of fun, overbearing time commitments, and injuries are just a few examples. However, for many athletes, sports are the source of heightening anxiety and depression. A study done by the British Journal of Sports Medicine shows that around 25% of all collegiate athletes show signs of depression. Because of this, it is not surprising that around 33% of college athletes quit their sport.

Stout, now a junior and retired student-athlete at Muhlenberg College, lays on the couch in her apartment recollecting her basketball experience. She sighs, but not disappointedly. Stout made the decision to stop playing collegiate basketball right before her third season. At a glance, two missed free throws may not look like much of a setback. However, when Stout stepped up to the line the following season and the same thing happened, the feeling of embarrassment returned, along with a newfound avoidance of aggression, which stemmed from her fear of getting fouled and given other opportunities at the free-throw line. This became a problem because, as a post player, Kassidy needed to be aggressive to be successful.

"It started to get to the point where I didn't want to be as aggressive because I didn't want to get fouled and go to the free-throw line," she says. "It took a huge part of my game away."

Just as a part of her game was taken away, a part of her love of the sport also left. So when the COVID-19 pandemic canceled most college sports seasons, Stout used this time to train with a private coach — who helped her with basketball skills and also with her mindset. "Every time I would go train with him, I would feel like how I did when I was playing in high school. I felt confident. I wasn't nervous," she says while remembering her training sessions. Without the eyes of coaches, teammates, and fans, basketball seemed so much more enjoyable and easy. "But I just knew in the back of my head... gametime. This could be totally different when there's people watching. Thinking about the pressure of everyone watching me kind of freaked me out still."

At the beginning of her junior year, the nerves and anxiety returned. Stout decided to talk to the college's sports psychologist and after three visits he helped her realize that she loved playing the game of basketball, but the stress brought on by competition was not worth putting her mental health in danger. The newfound freedom Stout gained from deciding to stop playing competitively allowed her to work more, focus on school and continue to be active in her own way.

Although Stout knew that quitting would overall be the healthiest option for her mental health, part of her still did not want to let anyone down. Possibly the hardest part about choosing to quit her sport was potentially disappointing her parents. "They spent so much time and money on me playing. It was never a matter of whether or not I was going to play in college, I knew I was going to, and partly because I felt like I owed it to them. And I wanted to, of course," she says, thinking about how much her parents had also been a part of her basketball journey. When her parents did find out, the only worry was that she would regret the decision. However, besides that, her parents were not disappointed in any way — they chose to stand by Stout no matter what decision she made. "The reaction surprised me. But deep down, I knew that they just wanted me to be happy."

At the end of Duffy's freshman basketball season, the physical and mental exhaustion she experienced after every game caused her to rethink her commitment to the team. "I ultimately finished freshman year basketball, but I was coming home every night crying," Duffy says. "I was a little bit nervous to quit. I thought people were gonna be mad at me. And my best friend was mad at me, she didn't understand how I could do that to them."

The pressure from teammates and coaches often stops players from quitting, even if it would be the right choice for them in the end. Knowing that a teammate is being let down makes the situation even harder to process. Although in the moment quitting a sport that has been such a prominent part of their life may feel as though a piece of the person's self is being taken away, the possibility of moving onto other things that better support and suit the person makes the decision even better. For Duffy, leaving the commitment of basketball, which caused her high stress and low self esteem, allowed her to pursue other opportunities. "It was definitely the best decision for me to quit basketball because I then started coaching youth basketball and working with kids with autism. That's how I solidified what I wanted to do in life."

In her new role as a student-assistant coach of the women's basketball team, Stout gets the opportunity to help her former teammates from the side of the court and still be an important part of the team without putting her mental health on the line. Although she misses the feeling of playing in or winning a really close game, Stout does not regret her decision to quit basketball. "Maybe if I saw a sports psychologist more often I could have stopped my anxiety, but part of me just didn't want to be fixed," she says, furthering her opinion that she made the right decision.

Tim Silvestri, a licensed psychologist, performance counselor, and the head of counseling services at Muhlenberg College, believes that "mission" is what drives athletes to continue to play and put so much effort into a sport. When athletes come to Silvestri to seek guidance about potentially quitting their sport, he analyzes whether they have lost the mission they previously had for the sport, or if they have simply moved on to a better mission.

"The question is, what were your reasons for loss of mission? Can we get that back? Or did you lose your mission because you are obsessed with becoming an artist, a doctor or a chef, and the previous mission of the sport is holding you back from that?" he asks. Athletes who simply lose their original mission can easily get it back with support and counseling if they choose that path. However, in many cases, leaving their sport behind may create endless opportunities. There is a difference between those who love being an athlete and have temporarily lost the drive to play, and those who no longer have their mission. Drive and mission can be recovered, but if the person has no connection to being an athlete anymore, their mission in their sport has ended, and it allows them to find a new mission in life and move on.

In Duffy's case, she had lost mission for basketball but had found a new mission helping kids with autism and volunteering in hospitals. The decision to leave behind a big part of her life was difficult, but it resulted in her getting the opportunity to discover what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. For Stout, her loss of mission for basketball came when she realized that she was happier on the sideline coaching than on the court with the eyes of the crowd on her and the constant pressure of the competition.

When both Stout and Duffy reflected on their decision to quit the sports that they were once extremely successful in, neither had any regret or unease about what they chose to do. Although coming to this realization may have been difficult, the result will have lasting positive effects on their mental health. For Stout, being afraid to quit stemmed from the possibility of disappointing her parents and the worry that she may regret the decision herself. For Duffy, the possibility of disappointing her teammates and friends caused added pressure, along with the lasting feeling that she may never achieve the level of enjoyment while playing that she should. Quitting may be the healthier option for many athletes, as long as they have the strength to realize it.

What makes a Mule

Coaches of volleyball and football discuss what they look for in a recruit.

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Asst. Sports Editor

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Head Coach Nathan Milne.

The student-athlete is a mystical creature, with unknown origins and fantastical creations.

Nope.

The recruitment process is exact and considers the whole student, not just his or her athletic ability.

What makes a Mule? What puts them on Football Head Coach Nate Milne's and Volleyball Head Coach Rob McVicker's radars?

For volleyball, McVicker has to fill out the positions of pin hitter, setter and libero. When recruiting he said, "The biggest thing we look for is versatility." While volleyball is a non-contact sport, injuries from wear and tear as well as concussions stretch a fifteen person roster.

McVicker explains that, "I don't want a middle that just [plays] the middle, because that's going to limit their ability to get on the court, whether they're the fourth middle on a team or they're a middle, but they can also play some right side, they can also be strong enough [to play] back row, where you don't have to take them out."

Versatility is a sign of a player's athleticism in volleyball as well as football. At Muhlenberg it is not atypical for a player to move from offense to defense. During film analysis, Trey Brown, linebacker and QB coach for the Mules, says, "Depending on the position there are certain metrics in place that we're shooting for. Obviously the linemen you want a certain size, you want them to be physical on tape, good height, good weight, bend well, you know little things like that. You're always looking [for] playmakers out on the edge."

With a trained eye, Brown and Kory David, defensive coach, can comb film from Hudl–a platform mostly used by high school athletes to promote their game film to potential college coaches. Sometimes a player may not be working in the same offensive scheme as Muhlenberg runs, so the film might not show the kick-slide Brown might look for. Analyzing film requires "vision" according to him.

Outside of film analysis, volleyball and football differ greatly in how players are evaluated in person. Volleyball is an extremely club dominated sport. Outside of their high school seasons, volleyball recruits are on club teams from November to June. McVicker spends his offseason "coaching a 16th team [16-year-old age group] right now. So we have 10 tournaments and [with] those 10 tournaments, I'll have the ability when I'm not coaching to be able to recruit, which is a really big benefit."

For football, when David, "gets young men here on campus going into their senior year, and get[s] a chance to evaluate them, it's those little things because it gets some contact. How you bend, how do you move, you know, maybe it's 90 degrees out? Are they tough enough to persevere for that 30-minute period, just the little things, you [are] just trying to gauge from them." Perseverance is certainly key to the football program's success during the Milne dynasty.

At the end of the day, film evaluation, tournament scouting and clinics are meaningless unless the recruit fits and loves the school. When recruiting, McVicker asks himself, "Will they fit here? And if volleyball was taken away from them for any reason would they still be happy here?"

For both football and volleyball, the most important word is "fit." When looking at recruits, "First and foremost is a recommendation from their high school coach, that's going to tell us about their character. More than anything we want to make sure that they're going to fit in at Muhlenberg College. Then we dive into their academics. That's going to really be step two, because Muhlenberg is an elite academic experience," says Milne.

At the end of the day your max bench is not enough to get you on the Muhlenberg back-to-back championship team. That won't even get you on a short list. You must fit with the team and school culture.

McVicker, who recently wrapped his first year as head coach, described his experience as an assistant coach for the Muhlenberg volleyball when, "We were in a spot where we really needed to fill our roster, and we weren't being as strict with whether this player is strong enough. If this player[s] there or this player[s] here, as far as athletic guidelines, we just kind of needed numbers. There was this player that just did not fit well with the team. She did her overnight, and we talked to the team after—like we do with most recruits, and they said we don't think she'd be a good fit. And we pulled our offer." Putting team chemistry first ended "up filling that spot with one of our captains right now."

While athletics may be a large part of a student's life at Muhlenberg, their happiness will be determined by how involved they are on campus—recruits know this. David looks in recruits' and their parents' eyes and sees that they make the decision when Muhlenberg students are, "sitting there laughing, joking, talking, you know, studying together." Milne highlights that, "Muhlenberg students have an impact on recruiting, whether you like athletics or not. We're selling the entire campus. And so I think that is a huge part of this as well. We talk about the theatre program, we talk about the certain academics on our campus, we've talked about locations and clubs, sports and other activities"

Those captured moments, when frisbees are thrown on the quad, a comedy show, a chemistry workshop before the big exam, these are the moments that will fill a recruits four years on campus.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Feb. 24 - Mar. 3

Men's Baseball

Muhlenberg
vs
RIT

Sun, Feb. 27 @ 10:00 a.m.
Washington, D.C.

Women's Tennis

Muhlenberg
vs
Moravian

Tues, Mar. 1 @ 3:30 p.m.
Deitrich Field House

Men's Tennis

Muhlenberg
vs
Moravian

Wed, Mar. 2 @ 3:30 p.m.
Bethlehem, Pa.

Women's Lacrosse

Muhlenberg
vs
Lycoming

Wed, Mar. 2 @ 4:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

"Miss You Like Hell" marks first 'Berg musical post-pandemic.

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NEWS

100+ students attend campus tours.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Songwriter Erin McKeown comes to campus.

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OP/ED

Renee Audrey talks about her new song, "Mirror Mirror."

Mirror Mirror

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SPORTS

Mules return to ballpark.

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Could a medical emergency create a financial nightmare?

'Berg requires health insurance without offering on-campus insurance.

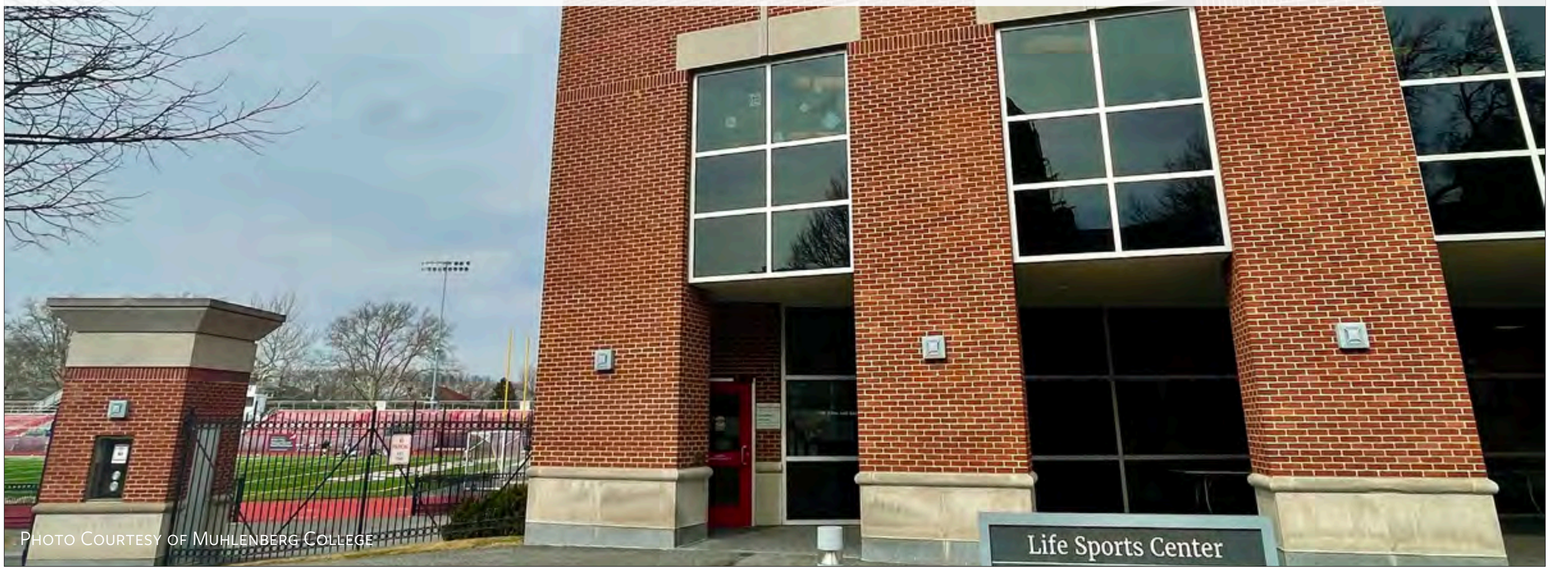

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

By Sarah O'Sullivan
Contributing Writer

A student gets sick during finals week and is unable to visit the health center due to the very limited hours. Forced to go to urgent care and unsure if they're sick with the flu or COVID, the student hopes for the best. They know they have to seek some form of medical attention in order to keep not just themself, but also their roommates, healthy. As a student without health insurance, the flu test and COVID test alone from urgent care costs them over $200. This story is the real experience of an anonymous student on campus. Luckily, the student just had the flu, but getting sick should not cause a fear of not being able to pay the bills.

When choosing a college, the campus tour and website highlight features such as campus life and fun clubs to join, but there is little discussion about health related issues such as access to doctors and whether or not the campus has its own health insurance. According to some estimates, as many as 3 million students are covered through student health plans offered by colleges, universities or other institutions of higher education. Yet this offer is not universal among higher education institutions. The Muhlenberg College website states that "the college does not offer a major medical health insurance policy. The College does require that all students have their own individual health insurance coverage." All students are required to upload proof of their own insurance coverage to the online health portal.

The Muhlenberg College website also states that there is a nominal fee for certain procedures, tests and medications; however, routine visits at the Health Center on campus are free.

"The College does provide a limited accident insurance policy for all full-time traditional students, secondary to the student's primary health insurance coverage," says Brynnemarie Dorsey, executive director of health and counseling services at the College.

However, she also says that this secondary policy does not provide any coverage for illnesses, just injury. Students with emergency medical needs or students who need assistance with costly copays, unexpected medical bills or urgent health care issues should contact the Dean of Students Office, which has some financial hardship funds such as emergency grants.

Health insurance becomes an even more pressing issue in a pandemic as the costs for essential items such as COVID tests—priced at $12 per rapid test on campus—add up if they are not covered by insurance. Health insurance for students can come in many different forms, either tied to the student's place of employment, their parent's employment, individual health plans through an insurer's website or through government forms such as Medicare or Medicaid. If a student is on their parent's insurance, and their parent or guardian loses their job, as many have during the pandemic, the student loses access to that person's insurance and must find some other health insurance plan before returning to school.

Although students are required to have health insurance to attend the College, it may not help cover all medical expenses while at school. Hadas Seltzer '24 has a chronic illness which requires her to have frequent doctors' appointments and medical tests. "My health insurance covers me in Massachusetts, while I'm here in Pennsylvania I am not covered," Seltzer explains.

Dorsey adds that while there is no primary health insurance or secondary policy for illness, this does not apply to emergency situations. "When determining if a student needs ambulance transport to an emergency room for a life-threatening issue, the focus of the health center is on the health needs of the student," says Dorsey. While insurance may not be required in order to access these emergency services, students may choose not to go in an ambulance because of their health insurance and because of the cost they may incur. For students like Seltzer, going to the emergency room is a $500 copay plus the cost of treatment. In addition, going to urgent care requires pre-authorization through her insurance company. While Muhlenberg has been able to help give her rides to appointments, it takes a lot of planning, and sometimes it's easier to try and get rides with friends.

Seltzer is not the only student struggling with health care coverage on campus. The anonymous Muhlenberg student whose COVID scare led to their costly urgent care trip lost their health care coverage when their mom was laid off due to the pandemic. "I grew up with unstable healthcare coverage, so at this point I started trying to receive coverage from the state," they said. The process of applying for coverage from the state can be long and difficult, especially for the student, whose parents were separating at the time, complicating what they would qualify for.

Due to the pandemic, the student was not on campus for most of the time they had coverage but they were working a full time retail job where they were consistently being exposed. "It was frustrating because I was constantly being exposed but knew I could not afford to get sick. One of the things at Muhlenberg that was incredibly frustrating to me at the time was that I was required to pay the school a health and wellness fee, which was supposed to allow me access to the campus health center, but this was useless due to my remote status." The student continued by saying they were glad this payment went to other students'

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Katherine Dickey
Editor-In-Chief
Alex Blum
Managing Editor
Cydney Wilson
Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor
Or-El Ankori
Layout Editor
Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

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Tom Hiller
Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

02/21/2022
On Campus Location: Report of unknown individuals illegally dumping trash into Campus dumpster, investigation to continue.
Parents Plaza: Report of animal complaint, investigation to continue.
Plant Operations: Report of hit and run to vehicle causing damage to bumper, no suspects at this time.
Off Campus Location: Report to assist Allentown Police Department regarding shooting incident near the College, no further incident.
The Village: Report of suspicious person, area checked, individual left the area, no further incident.

2/22/2022
Chew Street: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Life Sports Center: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival nothing could be noted to set off alarm, system silenced and reset.
Life Sports Center: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival nothing could be noted to set off alarm, Johnson Controls notified to respond and replace detector.

02/23/2022
Egner Memorial Chapel: Point of information report regarding uncooperative individuals identified and spoken to and left the area.

02/24/2022
Haas College Center: Report to stand by.
Liberty & 22nd: Report of suspicious person, area checked, individual could not be located, no further incident.

02/25/2022
Walz Hall: Report to speak to student, contact made, no further incident at this time.
Robertson Hall: Report of smashed body guard sensor, Plant Operations notified to respond, no suspects at this time.

02/26/2022
N. 22nd Street: Report of noise complaint, residents identified and spoken to, area cleared, no further incident at this time.
N. 22nd Street: Report of another noise complaint at same location, residents again spoken to and area cleared, Disruptive Conduct Report to be issued.
East Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

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RED DOOR CATERING

Body positivity celebrated on campus

Various campus organizations hosted the "More than a Mirror" event.

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

More than a Mirror Event!

Photo by Rebecca Clark '23

'Berg celebrates "More than a Mirror " event by encouraging students to write affirmations about their bodies.

"At Body Positive, we say that a body is like a lamp," Renee Levine '22, co-president of Body Positive, recited during the "More than a Mirror" event on Feb. 23. This unique philosophy has a simple conclusion: "When you walk into a room and see a lamp, you just think: it's a lamp. It's neutral. So if a body is like a lamp and a lamp is neutral... a body is neutral, too."

This message was at the heart of "More than a Mirror." The smiling students sitting behind a long table at the Seegers Union entrance on Feb. 23 looked at first glance like they might have been hosting a bake sale. After all, there were treats all over the table and the event was proudly co-hosted by Dining Services. But between the cupcakes and cookies, there were other objects for table visitors to take and use: mirrors and markers, ready for students to take up and write themselves messages on these reflective surfaces.

"To help alleviate the stress that comes with mirrors, Body Positive, Mental Health Peer Advocates (MHPA), and Dining Services invite the community to customize their own mirror with affirmations that are NOT associated with one's body," read the mission statement projected on a screen behind the table.

This event marked the first collaboration between these three organizations. Despite their differing missions, they shared a common goal: to share a general message regarding body positivity and to reduce the stigma around these conversations. "The point of MHPA is to raise awareness and reduce the stigma on campus surrounding various mental health issues and challenges. And eating disorders are stigmatized disorders that many people don't really understand. So we decided to collaborate with Body Positive to raise some more awareness," Libey Eynan '25 explained.

"We're bringing positive affirmations to items that can be stressful and can be triggering to individuals who struggle with body image and eating disorders. We want to create a more positive relationship with these objects and encourage others to spread positivity by writing down affirmations about themselves and their friends," Levine elaborated.

Beyond writing their own affirmations on handheld mirrors, people who attended the event were encouraged to write messages on a Post-It note to stick to a larger mirror as well. As the amount of notes multiplied, this led to a frame of inspiring, encouraging and colorful notes around the body-length reflection in the mirror. Messages included phrases like "trust your intuition" and "you are worthy."

"I think the practice of writing affirmations is important because you're actually writing out positive things," Abigail Bresalier '25, a member of Mental Health Peer Advocates, stated. "Writing it down commits it more to memory and it also spreads the positivity and encourages others to join in on that pattern. It's a chain of inspiration and positive feedback for yourself and others." There were suggestions for affirmations that did not relate to body image on the board behind the table like, "I love how we always have a great time together" and "You are so smart!"

Positive affirmations are one step in the right direction. The goal of removing the stigma and continuing these conversations is ongoing. National Eating Disorder Awareness Week took place from Feb. 21-27 this year, but the push for positive body image takes place year round. "We hope to do more events like this in the future. We need to talk about this stuff not just on the one week where everyone is talking about it. This stuff doesn't go away for people in recovery or who have recovered," Enyan emphasized.

If you or someone you know is suffering from an eating disorder, visit www.nationaleatingdisorders.org to access online resources or contact their hotline at 1-800-931-2237.

Prospective students visit for "Monday with the Mules"

By Matthew Baresh
Asst. News Editor

Muhlenberg's campus was buzzing on Presidents' Day, Feb. 21, with students doing school work outside or playing pickup games of frisbee. With the nice weather and a day off for most high schools came a large number of families coming to the College for campus tours. Many students could look around and see handfuls of families wherever they went, creating an exciting atmosphere mixed with the beautiful weather.

"It was such a lively and energetic day, and I think it really showed what the Muhlenberg community is all about to the families that were visiting campus," shared Gabi Hirshfield '24, a new 'Berg tour guide.

Over 118 families came to campus for "Monday with the Mules," a visitor program advertised for prospective families. The 10:00 a.m. time slot saw 42 families in a single hour, the highest number throughout the day, requiring 20 tour guides to accommodate the sheer number of visitors on campus.

"It was a bit overwhelming having so many tours out at once, however admissions did a great job spacing families out and making adjustments," said Marissa Steiner '22, a veteran tour guide and tour guide executive board member. "It was also so great getting some normalcy back as tours and visitors have been limited due to COVID, so for me it brought me back to my years as an underclassman tour guide."

"It was one of our largest visit programs since the start of the pandemic, and was also a place for our newer tour guides to be cleared, which is always super exciting," shared veteran tour guide Chris Xu '22. "It was super exciting to see a lot more families come and visit campus from all over the country."

The week before Presidents' Day saw a push to approve as many new tour guides as possible to help manage the large sum of families seeking out tours. In order to be cleared, new tour guides have to shadow (observe) two tours, give two tandem (co-lead) tours, and lastly give an entire tour to a family while being observed by a tour guide executive board member. After this process, the Office of Admissions was able to clear over 20 new tour guides within the span of two weeks.

"For me, it hasn't been stressful clearing tour guides for this year because the tour guides are coming in twice a week versus once a week so they were able to get prepared and trained quicker than in past years," explained Stacey Carpency, senior assistant director of admissions.

Photo courtesy of @muhlenbergcollege

Marissa Steiner '22 gives a tandem tour in the snow.

"We had [the tour guides] ready to go before the families came to visit and we were able to use other weeks to get everyone cleared."

The rush of families on Presidents' Day allowed for the tour guides to interact with prospective students and learn more about themselves as guides representing the College.

"I'm mainly looking forward to giving more tours and getting to know and communicate with prospective students. After giving three tours on Monday, I really got a feel for how I want to give my tours and how I want to interact with the families that visit campus," said Hirshfield.

"My favorite part of 'Monday with the Mules' was probably interacting with so many eager students and clearing our new tour guides," shared Steiner. "It was great watching families fall in love with Muhlenberg like I did, and even more special watching the new tour guides see

See **Prospective** page 4

Rare books collide with classwork

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

Photo courtesy of Susan Falciani Maldonado

Students looking at the College's archives on B-level of the library.

Muhlenberg College's Trexler Library contains rows upon rows of novels, records and written scholarship that students are free to check out at any time. However, there is a section of the library that is not as widely known: Muhlenberg's Special Collections. This curated body of work consists of school-specific artifacts along with incredibly valuable first editions, detailed illustrations and ancient papers. These treasures are sectioned off from Trexler's primary stacks and subsequently do not garner as much attention from the student body. Muhlenberg's Special Collections and Archives Librarian Susan Falciani Maldonado is working to change this.

Getting the materials in front of and into the hands of students is one of Falciani Maldonado's goals for Special Collections. She touts the College's accumulation of rare books as being "the perfect teaching collection" because its materials cover a wide breadth of subjects without delving too deep into one specific area of study. She notes that, "It allows us to show representative examples across topics... We may not have 50 editions of Hemingway, [but] we have two nice copies."

Not all the books in Special Collections have monetary value, according to Falciani Maldonado. However, they give insight into certain moments in time. Falciani Maldonado said, "Book history intersects with industry, with literature, of course, and with history... There are things that can be gleaned from a volume that is not just the text contents."

The diversity in the value of the school's rare books is not a deficit to the College. "I think one of the things that's fun about having a mix of high spots and then a wide diversity of other things is that the high spots are always exciting," said Falciani Maldonado.

Muhlenberg's Special Collections does not have a shortage of high spots within its realm. A set of first edition Charles Dickens' "Christmas Books," a slew of ancient papyri, a book of poetry hand-painted and drawn by William Blake and a first edition of "The Scarlet Letter" are all pieces of 'Berg's rare materials.

It's not just Muhlenberg that is aiming to take a more active, teaching-centric approach to their Special Collections. It has been a growing trend for universities to abandon the notion that their sole purpose is to preserve and protect their valuable objects. Falciani Maldonado expressed that the Special Collections community began to question this notion. "What can be gained from thinking about these as objects and putting them into the hands of students? So, the idea of doing more outreach and more classroom hands-on programming with Special Collections items is something that has been a groundswell and become best practice among Special Collections librarians."

This thought process is what led to the evolution of the "Sacred Stories" class at Muhlenberg which is co-taught by Falciani Maldonado and Sharon Albert, senior lecturer of religion studies. It began as a course solely instructed by Albert, but Falciani Maldonado came into the picture when discussions of rare religious texts came up. The pair then decided to transform the class, and applied for an "Integrative Learning" designation. Now, students delve into the history of holy works while simultaneously studying different elements of the library.

Two students in the course, Nour Yousry '23 and Emily Orlich '24, explained how the handling of rare books in class has impacted their learning experiences. Yousry noted, "The application of rare books within a classroom setting has opened up my eyes to all the wonders that can be extracted from various literary materials. As you touch and handle these rare materials, you feel yourself time-traveling backwards into history. The material elements such as the binding of books, marble-colored pages and rough-edged papers, to the uniquely published ink on the page—the experience is truly magical, as it gives you insight to a new and unfamiliar world."

Orlich expressed similar sentiments saying, "I think the application of rare books within the classroom has made my learning experience so much better. In a class about rare books it makes it so much more engaging and fun to actually be able to get hands-on experience with the books rather than just reading about them."

If students want a chance to experience the Special Collections themselves, the courses "Books and Their Readers" and "Printmaking 1" are taught in tandem with each other next semester and utilize the rare books in Trexler. Students can also make an appointment with Falciani Maldonado through email to view these texts. More information about the Muhlenberg's archives is posted to the Instagram account @bergspecialcollections.

From **Nightmare** page 1

treatment but they knew that—had they gotten COVID—they wouldn't have been able to afford care.

"As with most administrative policies on Muhlenberg's campus," they say, "the intentions may be good, but Muhlenberg often neglects to think about any groups of students that are not wealthy or lack stability in any way."

"Hearing my peers talk about being able to go to the doctor when ill without hesitation or even for check ups is sometimes very discouraging and can make me feel as though my life and safety is more at risk than others," says the anonymous student. "I am fighting for healthcare coverage and things they take for granted or have never had to consider."

From **Prospective** page 3

that too. Since this is my last semester as a tour guide, I am excited to continue making an impact on our community and the future student body of Muhlenberg."

"Monday with the Mules" was the perfect opportunity for new Muhlenberg tour guides to exercise their newfound skills in giving tours and for veteran tour guides to share their years of experience with prospective students.

"I hope for [the tour guides] to have awesome experiences with the families and more individualized interactions so having tours be smaller and more one-on-one experiences to be able to share your stories," explained Carpency. "I am also excited for the tour guides to gain experience professionally with learning how to answer questions quickly and on their feet and learn how to interact with other people. Also sharing your stories and reasons to why you chose Muhlenberg is reaffirming for the tour guides as well as helping families make that decision on their own."

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"Maybe that's what mom had meant when whisper-urging me, 'It's in your blood - the resilience, the deep memory and experience of survival." Quiara Alegría Hudes, My Broken Language: A Memoir

"Miss You Like Hell" debuts at 'Berg

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG THEATRE AND DANCE

Marina Rinkunas '25 and Bridget Wiggan '23 smile for the camera on the set of "Miss You Like Hell"

By Ian Clark
Asst. A&C Editor

With the beginning of a new semester comes new performances from the Muhlenberg theatre and dance department. The spring semester started off with a bang this past weekend with "Miss You Like Hell," Muhlenberg's first musical since the start of the pandemic. The musical was directed by Visiting Assistant Professor of Acting Jamie McKittrick with choreography by Adjunct Professor of Dance Samuel A. Reyes, based on the book by Quiara Alegría Hudes and music by Erin McKeown.

The musical depicts the story of Beatriz and Olivia, an estranged mother and daughter, played by Bridget Wiggan '23 and Marina Rinkunas '25, respectively, as they travel across the United States to save Beatriz from deportation while repairing their relationship.

"Miss You" has been in the back of McKittrick's mind for a while before she brought it to Muhlenberg. McKittrick previously knew the stage manager for the original runs of "Miss You" and mentored a student whose thesis revolved around the show.

Having this prior knowledge helped McKittrick better tackle the show and find where to improve. While the production at the La Jolla Playhouse in California had a lot of intricate props, costumes, sets and production design, the Public Theater in New York City "was pretty sparse in terms of that type of stuff. I think it was mostly chairs… I had the benefit of having encountered the play before, and in realizing that maybe we wanted something in the middle. And also knowing that for me this story needed a lot of dance and movement."

When discussing the choreography in the show, McKittrick said "I was originally going to direct and choreograph it. But then I thought about Sammy Reyes, who's amazing, another Latino [person] and I know what his movement style is like. I thought it would really help the story we were telling."

McKittrick continued, "We started immediately talking about the set being a ritual space… creating this idea that [Beatriz] is calling down the ancestors, gods… the ensemble could be that support system and their support would often primarily come through their presence and the way that they moved."

The idea of spirituality continued through the set design of the show having marigolds placed throughout. The flowers placed around the set mimicked an ofrenda—the altars made for día de los Muertos to commemorate the memories and spirits of the deceased—with marigolds being added for every new memory the characters experience throughout the show.

The cast made sure to get to work on the show even before the semester began. Like other upcoming shows in the early months of the semester, the cast was invited back to campus early during winter break to start rehearsing before classes began. McKittrick made sure to take full advantage of this time.

"My creative team and I agreed that the goal was that we would have the whole piece staged by the second week, because I was fairly certain… we would have people have to disappear along the way, which is what happened. But if we could get it all, at least, the spine of something down quickly, then we'd at least have something in place to build off of… that's only possible because [of] the community that we built."

Levi Roush '24, who plays the character of Mo, discussed the rehearsal process. He said, "Getting to know and work with the cast and production team was so special. There was so much laughter throughout the process and so much to be learned from one another. The 'Miss You Like Hell' cast and creative team will hold a special place in my heart always."

Zaire Carter '22 who doubled as an ensemble member and the lawyer reflected on the community of the show saying, "This show is all about community and family and belonging… It was a privilege to go along for the ride… There are moments where you get overwhelmed because there is just so much content and a lot to remember and do, but that's when you can lean on your ensemble to support you. I know I did. When you have a group of people as dedicated, hard-working and kind as we did, there isn't anything that could've happened that we couldn't have handled. I remember we had a day off from rehearsal and a group of us decided to get together and run all of the dance numbers that we needed extra help on. On our day off! That's the level of commitment this group of remarkable artists had."

Along with the amazing community on display, the work effort of the production is clear in every facet of this show. McKittrick emphasized, "It's been a pleasure to get to meet so many student artists and student theatre makers who are invested in the work that they do and are curious about the work that they do. I also appreciate their ability to say yes… I trust that the actors will have thought their way through the script, all the actors were asked to come memorized for our first rehearsal."

From the perspective of the cast themselves, Roush reflected on the performances saying, "The performances this past weekend felt really good. We created a really beautiful, heartbreaking, moving piece of art based on real-life issues that need to be recognized and talked about right now."

Roush continued, "Having the opportunity to play a character that was funny and lovable was such a great experience for me. I am so grateful that I could be a part of a production that carries so much meaning, and hopefully touched the hearts of every audience member."

"It was honestly really nerve-wracking because this was my first musical at Muhlenberg," explained Rachelle Montilus '24, another member of the cast. "I know Muhlenberg musicals are known to generate a lot of support and a lot of excitement, so I definitely felt the pressure–I know a lot of us did—because we were the first musical to premiere coming out of COVID-19. It felt really good, though, especially hearing everyone's reactions, and that the audience enjoyed the show."

Erin McKeown talks about her songwriting process

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG THEATRE AND DANCE

Erin McKeown talks with the cast and crew of 'Miss You Like Hell'

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

On Saturday, Feb. 26, the department of theatre and dance hosted a discussion and talkback with Erin McKeown, the composer of the first departmental mainstage production of the semester, "Miss You Like Hell."

At 2:00 p.m., community members, including some of those involved with the production, filed into the Baker Center for the Arts Recital Hall, filling the majority of seats in the space. McKeown emerged from the double doors at the bottom of the hall, and was immediately full of energy and enthusiasm about musicianship and craft from the very start of the lecture.

McKeown, an internationally recognized musician, writer and producer, began at the beginning of her writing process, explaining the development of a solid working relationship between herself and co-lyricist and librettist Quiara Alegría Hudes, playing a few popular songs that inspired the style and phrasing of "Miss You Like Hell" initially, including "Heaven on their Minds" from "Jesus Christ Superstar."

"Quiara would come to my place, or I'd go to hers, and we'd just lie in the grass, and we'd write everything down—whatever words or phrases or jumbled ideas came to us," explained McKeown.

As far as detailing the process of songwriting from a musicianship standpoint, McKeown provided audience members with a hands-on walkthrough from the ground up. After pulling up and describing her preference for and experience with Logic Pro X, Apple's cutting-edge audio engineering software, she gave a free, easily-accessible alternative in GarageBand, which she explained is built into the system of every Mac.

"My process always begins with rhythm," said McKeown. "Once I discover the pulse, I'm able to better imagine the melodies, and that's how I find myself best able to set the text."

The audience then listened to a stripped-down version of the song "Lioness," a powerful solo sung by the character Beatríz in the show, and McKeown even brought the audience's attention toward phrases that resembled harmonic aspects of "Heaven on their Minds."

"Beatriz is so vivacious and so full of life, and wants to live every moment of her life to the fullest," said Rachelle Montilus '24, a member of Muhlenberg's cast of "Miss You Like Hell."

"The biggest thing for me was that it was a surreal experience getting to listen to the person who created the musical you've been working on for a long time," said Lorenzo Antigua '24, a member of the "Miss You Like Hell" company. "When I'm in a musical, it becomes the center of my life for a couple months, and I end up living in the music and the story. It always makes me wonder what the motivations of the composer are, and it was striking hearing how complex some of the musical ideas really were, and how simple others were."

All in all, McKeown's messaging was undeniably supportive and encouraging of young songwriters of all experience levels, and she emphasized throughout the discussion that a product of any caliber is attainable.

"Remember that no song is precious," said McKeown, at the close of the discussion. "You'll write hundreds of songs in your career, and some will land and some may not, but what matters is that you continue producing. I've learned so much from every production and workshop, and even if I didn't know how to orchestrate certain sections of the score or ran into a compositional roadblock or something, I always knew that there were other artists I'd be able to learn from."

People of marginalized gender identities present "The Vagina Monologues"

PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL FUCHS '23

Ariel Noble '23 on stage during her performance.

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

This past weekend on Feb. 25, the Feminist Collective and Sophia Johnson-Grimes '22 presented "The Vagina Monologues," a performance piece consiting of various monologues and spoken word. The ensemble of actors consisted of people from marginalized gender backgrounds as they reflected on their experiences related to vaginas, from their hair to fun and not-so-fun facts.

The annual piece has been performed thanks to the support of the Feminist Collective, an active group here on campus. "I really admire the Feminist Collective in that they seek justice through an intersectional perspective," shared Johnson-Grimes.

"The Vagina Monologues" continues to be a performance for people to showcase the beauties of their bodies and also the difficulties they face. The performance was not just focused on cisgender women, but encompased other gender identities.

"I was in the show my freshman year, [as]'The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy,' so it was a very interesting perspective to be on the other side of the table this time," stated Johnson-Grimes.

"This ['The Vagina Monologues'] was such a fun and empowering tradition that Muhlenberg had for the longest time and I was so sad COVID did away with it, so I wanted to bring it back, and I'm so glad I did. I hope people will continue it for years to come. Feminist Collective is full of such smart, strong individuals. They were the best sponsors I could have asked for," added Johnson-Grimes.

Lizzie Witek '23 served as the associate director and stage manager for the piece, assisting with the rehearsal process and the overall performance. Witek and Johnson-Grimes created a collaborative experience as they both led the performers and developed the overall piece.

"Sophia gave me the opportunity to direct five of my own pieces on top of stage managing the show, so it felt like a truly collaborative process. We... creatively get along so well, so I'm very lucky to have had them through this process," Witek claimed.

Robin Title '25, a member of the company who performed "My Vagina was My Village," mentioned their positive experience in "The Vagina Monologues" and being able to participate in this piece both as an actor and human being.

"The process was great! Sophia and Lizzie made everything go really well and I cannot thank them enough for that. I feel as though I've learned so much about myself as a performer and as a person," stated Title.

Isabelle Peters '24, an audience member stated, "I thought all of the performers did an outstanding job! All of them gave genuine and powerful performances that resonated around the room, it was a truly unique space."

The play was rejuvenated for new audience members with the help of Johnson-Grimes and the rest of the cast. This older piece was updated with more modern themes and by updating the language to be representative of today's culture and beliefs.

Johnson-Grimes mentioned, "'The Vagina Monologues' was written over 20 years ago, and the world around us has changed immensely since then, for the better, in my opinion."

The director kept the original script intact but also allowed for areas of growth and to feature more gender identities. The space was made to be more inclusive and welcoming for audience members and performers of the cast.

"Most of the text from the original script was kept, we did however change a lot of the language to encompass a wider range of gender identities (for example, changing 'women' to 'people'). As a non-female identifying vagina owner myself, I can attest to the fact that language is a very powerful thing and does, in fact, matter in these conversations," continued Johnson-Grimes. "Also, there were two monologues we cut from the show and replaced with original pieces written

See **Bodies** page 7

Nigel Semaj discusses art and breaking barriers

By Keanna Peña
Co-A&C Editor

On Feb. 25 the Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC) hosted a workshop with Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance/Directing Nigel Semaj. The workshop focused on Semaj's expercience at 'Berg and their artistic expression as being Black and genderqueer in both education and the arts. At Muhlenberg, Semaj directed "Call Me by Any Other Name... Just as Sweet" and is currently teaching "Dramatic Text and Action," "History of Queer Performance" and "Directing: Process in Production." They are also involved in the theatre and dance department's project "Unconquered." "Unconquered" premieres Friday, Mar. 4, and is the work of Fredrick Earl Mosley, choreographer and activist.

At the workshop, the MTAC asked Semaj a variety of questions, from gender expression in the arts to the story behind doing an adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Students also were able to ask their own questions about adaptations and directing. Semaj revealed that they love classical plays, because "I can take it and make it whatever I want it to be. But also there is something really deep inside of them that is really important. I love Shakespeare, I love the Greeks. I love those plays, and growing up and doing theatre, I was like, 'I am not inside of it at all. I don't see myself within them at all.' And so at one point during my undergraduate and graduate school careers, I was like, 'I want to start inserting Black and brown [performers] into these texts.'"

During the event, Semaj also talked a lot about their experience in theater and their journey getting to where they are now. They explained how they started their college career majoring in education with a low grade point average (GPA) and then once they began doing theatre, they soared in college.

Attendee Giovanni Merrifield '23 expressed that Semaj's story was relatable. "I feel that many people begin college, and get into a field that 'they're supposed to do' because their parents and/or society tells them to do so, which often leads to unhappiness or failure or both. I felt that when Nigel spoke about this, it made me realize that there are other people like me who thought they had everything figured [out], but then realized that they wanted to pursue their passion."

Semaj told attendees, "You can do anything. If I can stand up here and be a professor after ending my very first semester of college with a .579 GPA, you can do anything."

When talking about how they got into directing, Semaj described a time in high school where they were in a school play and when casting issues arose, the situation was handled poorly, and they thought to themselves, "I could do a better job at directing." This kind of perspective allowed them to write and direct a play freshman year of college, despite lack of funding.

"You can do anything."

At the end of the event, students asked Semaj questions regarding imposter syndrome, the research that goes into doing an adaptation and how to break gender norms in plays.

After the workshop, Merrifield expressed, "I think the talk went very well. I feel that it was very low-key and relaxed, but very informative." He also commented, "I'd just like to add that there's not a lot of Black representation on campus, let alone Black, queer, and non-cisgender professors on this campus, so it was/is great to see someone with similar/same identities at Muhlenberg to show the world that they too can do anything despite what society says about them."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Nigel Semaj talked about their experience as a director and playwright.

From **Bodies** page 6

by members of the cast. No hate towards the people who wrote them in the first place, since these are personal experiences, but many of the ideas these monologues present were problematic and outdated. Spyro [Coffin '25] and Honeyjo [Yanko '25] both had incredible stories to tell that I felt needed to be heard by the public, stories we hardly ever hear."

Coffin, who performed "Boy's Problem," described the process of writing his own monologue for the piece.

"I've always been a bit of a writer— I've written monologues and stories before, so it wasn't impossible to write down my feelings about the topic of gender dysphoria since it's something I experience on the daily," stated Coffin. "It's awesome being able to have that creativity, but also being able to share something that means so much to you and having the ability to educate others about it, so they can better themselves in the future."

The lively piece served as a fundraiser for Turning Point of Lehigh Valley and the group was able to receive an impressive amount of donations from the audience members. Turning Point focuses on helping victims of domestic violence with a shelter and other options for help. A minimum of a $2 donation was asked for to watch the show. Johnson-Grimes concluded, "I'm still counting donations at the moment, but so far we've raised over $200. I'm so grateful for everyone who supported us."

Kailani Reis '24, a company member and swing, decided to participate in the piece after seeing a post on Instagram. One Google Form and a video submission later, Reis performed "Reclaiming Cunt" on Feb. 25.

Reis shared, "I really enjoyed knowing I was a part of a community of people sharing the stories of something that is still taboo to talk about. We only performed one night which was sad, but it was wonderful seeing all the people who came to watch us and thereby donate to a good cause."

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It's my turn to breathe

By Mustafa Hall (*he/him*)
Op/Ed Editor

Ever since I arrived at Muhlenberg′s predominantly white campus freshman year, I′ve grappled with this internal conflict: how large or how small should I make my Blackness in relation to majority-white spaces? This complex reality of my Black identity is a reality that's vastly larger than myself. It's an experience that webs many Black people together. An experience that forces one to spend a lifetime trying to understand how to move, breathe, act, speak or even blink in overtly white spaces.

I remember freshman year when I would find myself in very white spaces, I would try to match the "white energy." I did this by either dialing back my Brooklyn Blaccent (the dialect that I take so much pride in), laughing at their very unfunny jokes to not seem too much like the outlier, or simply by keeping my mouth shut (silence was often the best tactic in my opinion). In all white/heavily white spaces, I would take my Blackness, place it between my fingers and shrink an energetic force originally the size of the sun into the size of a pea. It was both an act of self-preservation (and simply trying to remain sane) and feeling as though to exist in that space, chunks of me needed to be removed and filled with whiteness and silence.

Something that I don't think a lot of white people truly understand is the emotional burden of being the only Black person (or one of few) in an only white or heavily white space. It is exhausting and at this point, I'm going to need some money if this continues to be a problem. On a serious note, being the only Black person in a white space is a unique kind of trauma. It isn't necessarily physical, sexual, mental, or emotional (you can definitely argue mental or emotional but that isn't the case for me) trauma, but rather a trauma that cuts at your personality. It carves at it and if placed in that white environment for too long and for too extended of a time, it is so easy to no longer recognize who you are. Who your Blackness is. One of the most heinous aspects of white supremacy is that its goal in relation to Blackness is to starve it, demonize it and replace it. Being the only Black person in a white space acts the same way with enough time and enough exposure. It's harmful to the Black spirit, the Black personality, and the Black mind.

See **Breathe** page 9

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg (*she/her*)
Staff Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week's edition of Paige's Page! I don't know about the rest of you, but some of you that have asked me questions this past week—and also myself—are in a bit of a mid-semester rut. Right now we are approaching the daunting period right before spring break where it feels like nothing matters, the weeks are going by way too slowly. It's still too cold and only so much time with others is tolerable. Right now I am not having the best time, but I know that soon I will get to sit in my house in New Jersey and disconnect for a week. And then once that happens, I will be back and better than ever! This week I am going to answer some of your questions about struggling with right now. I hope that this helps a lot of you to know that we can—and we will—get through this together. <3

Q **Hi Paige! I am so tired. How do I stop being so tired all the time?**

Hey bestie, for the sake of transparency, I am writing this at an absolutely ridiculous hour of the morning.I am always tired, and it is 100% my own fault. I'm sure that this is something many of you can relate to as Muhlenberg students. We are always running around like chickens with our heads cut off. Always working, in meetings, catching up with friends, trying to take time for ourselves (and typically being unsuccessful). I, however, have always had an absolutely horrendous sleep schedule. I am way more productive in the evenings than I am during the day, so I end up working overtime because my procrastination can get the best of me. I also LOVE my alone time and the only time I am ever able to really be alone, just me and my fairy lights against the world, is after I turn off my lights and lay my head on my satin pillowcase. This time to myself would be better-used sleeping, because I never have enough of that and in the morning I regret the prolonged staring at my ceiling, thinking and processing my days. It is when I wake up in the morning that I have to try to come alive, and start my day. I am a coffee drinker, I realized it had turned into a bit of a caffeine dependency so I am trying to wean off of it, but that is certainly helpful for getting me up and ready for the day. ince coming to college I have also become a nap person. I take really short power naps if I have time to come back to my room during the day. They help a lot {only if you actually get up after though.) I also would try to give your body sleep when it needs it, which is much easier said than done. I know that if I need to go to bed at, say 11:30 (which is so early for me), I will if I have the ability to. Ultimately I know many of us put our other commitments before our own well-being. Please try to put yourself first; your body and your mind will thank you.

Q **Hey Paige, how do I navigate feeling like a horrible person when I do one thing wrong one time while also being in a constant state of knowing I'm the baddest bitch alive?**

Hi, bestie! I am actually obsessed with this question. I know personally, I can be really hard on myself on small things or even one slip up. It sounds like you are similar in that way. It′s really hard to be perfect all the time (like we are), and while we may try to handle every situation with grace, it is impossible for us to do everything the "right" way every single time. You are certainly not a horrible person for this, even if you feel like you are the worst, you really are not. It was really great of you to acknowledge your slip ups. The fact that you are open to learning and growing makes you a good person. A lot of people believe themselves to be the perfect main character in their own story, and the fact that you understand that you may make mistakes on your journey is really important to helping you become the best possible version of yourself. I would now like to move on to the second part of your question, while this is an anonymous advice column, I can say with certainty, that you are the baddest bitch alive and I am so glad you know it. You need to feel confident in the decisions you make, and that is really hard, so if you know you're the best, that will make moving on from this mistake so much easier. Go easy on yourself, be kind to yourself, love yourself.

Q **Hi Paige, I realize that when I'm struggling or times are tough, I speak in "we" terms, saying "we're getting through it" or "we're working on it." Why do you think that is?**

Hey, bestie! This is a really cool question, I love that we're getting philosophical this week! I think that this has to do with the natural, human need for support and love. I feel that it is so much easier to get through hardship with others, feeling alone is the scariest thing to feel when having a difficult time. When you're struggling it can feel like no one understands you or no one cares. Being alone is really hard, it feels like the only person you can count on is yourself, the only situations you have control over are your own actions. You hold yourself to a higher standard than you hold others to and so, "we" provides a kind of support system, even if it′s not real, it′s easier to digest. Personally, I feel when I do this I am removing myself from the hard things that are happening to or around me. It is easier to communicate these situations with others when you feel disconnected from them.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio: @paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree @bergweekly.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

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Listen Loudly

…

A creative space for marginalized voices

Mirror Mirror

By Renee Audrey (*she/her*)
Contributing Writer

My own mind eats at my life
Fitting in a gown, half my size
Clawing at my curves, fire breathing words
In my blood, they burn
Will I ever learn, my body is crumbling?
Am I the monster of my own story?

Mirror mirror on the wall
Who's the thinnest one of all
Shallow thoughts and a tired mind
Is this kinda life worth my time?
Mirror mirror on the wall
Gotta keep it together for the ball

Can I break this glass and end the war
What's this silver plate and wardrobe for?
Running for my life, as my essence dies
It's a battlefield of societal lies
Don't want to size up to the horror
Will I ever morph this monster?

Mirror mirror on the wall
Who's the thinnest one of all
Shallow thoughts and a tired mind
Is this kinda life worth my time?
I feel as if my gut
Stretches to sky
All this emptiness inside
Eating me alive
Disintegrate to dust
non-existent self-love
It's what I gotta find
If my mama's right

Mirror mirror on the wall
Who's the thinnest one of all
Shallow thoughts and a tired mind
Is this kinda life worth my time?
Mirror mirror on the wall
Gotta keep it together for the ball

My name is Renee Audrey, and I am a singer-songwriter-musician at Muhlenberg College studying media and communication and minoring in Spanish. Upon graduating from Muhlenberg, I will be pursuing a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Rutgers' Graduate School of Applied Professional Psychology in Fall 2022. Aside from my academic pursuits, I have been singing, songwriting, and performing music since the age of four. I have found immense solace in songwriting coping with my mental health journey, and the lyrics I share with you in this piece helped me process my difficulties with Body Dysmorphia, my relationship with food and eating as well as exercise.

In my newly released song, "Mirror Mirror," I allude to Snow White and the Seven Dwarves through my lyric, "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the thinnest one of all." Instead of keeping the original, well-known, "fairest of them all" phrase, I wanted to use it to emulate the pressures of diet culture, social media, the food, and fitness industries to be thin. Although the standards of what is "attractive" and "acceptable" are always changing, the standard of "thinness" equating with beauty is what I personally struggled with. I wanted to use princess and fairytale-esque themes throughout the song to display the way beauty standards seep into childhood with Disney princesses, and the idea of being the most beautiful for my future prince.

Wordplay is something I loved utilizing in the creation of this song. Not only did I not realize how much of our daily vernacular alludes to diet culture, food restriction, and the toxic need to be "perfect," but it helped me see the thoughts that broke me inside as something beautiful to be included in a song. Lyrics such as, "running for my life, as my essence dies" allude to excessive exercise, "don't want to size up to the horror" allude to the fear of not fitting the Eurocentric beauty standard, and "fire breathing words" allude to how horribly mean these thoughts can really be. Although, one of my favorites, the last line of the chorus, I feel, speaks to this idea. I wanted to pair the rather "proper" phrase, "Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the thinnest of them all?" with something more colloquial, "gotta keep it together for the ball." I feel like these lines express how we have to force a smile and push through the internal suffering. In this case, it is to "keep it together for the ball," a place where beauty is the focus and all that matters in the way you exist and present yourself. My mother's encouragement of self-love is what got me through those extremely hard times, and with her mention in the song, I wanted to pay homage to how supportive she has been throughout my journey.

With songwriting, I sing my obsessive thoughts and pain into oblivion, and I hope this song provides comfort to those who are struggling and need support. Thanks to musical composition and performance, I have been able to take the thoughts that brought me pain and exhaustion and see them as a gift because I believe they make me a more empathetic and compassionate songwriter.

Photo courtesy of Renee Audrey

Mirror Mirror
Renee Audrey

Renee Audrey's new single album cover.

To Deserving the World and Knowing it

By Maria Rivera (*they/them*)
Contributing Writer

Some goodbyes are harder than others
a saddened look and tight embrace will not suffice
words expressed are mere silhouettes of my condolences
but I am glad you left

No longer a feeling of insufficiency
I know I deserve the world

To the part of me that said I was undeserving
thank you for your lessons but you were not supposed to be the one to teach them to me
To my mind
I apologize for letting an unwelcome guest stay past their lease
we've lost something we did not need

A tenant that was brave and persistent
lived off insecurity checks and loud mouth discounts
paid in cheap insults and was never late with its monthly
"this is what you deserve" bills
For that, I am learning how to be punctual

To the part of me that said I was undeserving
you will never be forgotten
your absence makes room for better and bigger memories
but yours will be stored away for inspiration
For that, A toast to your eviction

From **Breathe** page 8

Now, in my junior year, I find myself being a lot more comfortable with being the only Black person in the room. Not because it's ok that I'm the only Black person in that space. That's never ok. But I no longer feel the need to shrink my Blackness or the aspects of myself that relate to it in order to give more room to the already dominating white energy present. I have found confidence and a prideful sense of jubilee in standing out. No longer will I suffocate my Blackness to give more oxygen to whiteness.

However, acknowledge this: just because I can exist more freely in heavily/all-white spaces, doesn't mean I want to nor that I should.

For all my Black people reading this, this is for you. Never take for granted the power of being surrounded by Blackness. Never take for granted how much it can feed you and revitalize you. Never take for granted the healing power of Black harmony, community, and Blackness itself.

Mules return to ballpark

The Muhlenberg baseball team opens spring play with 3-0 record.

By Isaac Shulman
Contributing Writer

The return of America's favorite pastime is something that players and fans equally look forward to. For Muhlenberg, opening day was definitely worth the wait. The Mules started their season off with a strong 13-3 win against the Cazenovia College Wildcats, setting the pace for a three game sweep at the Gallaudet Bison Classic in Washington, DC. Through three games, the Mules put up a staggering 36 runs while only allowing 12 runs to their opponents.

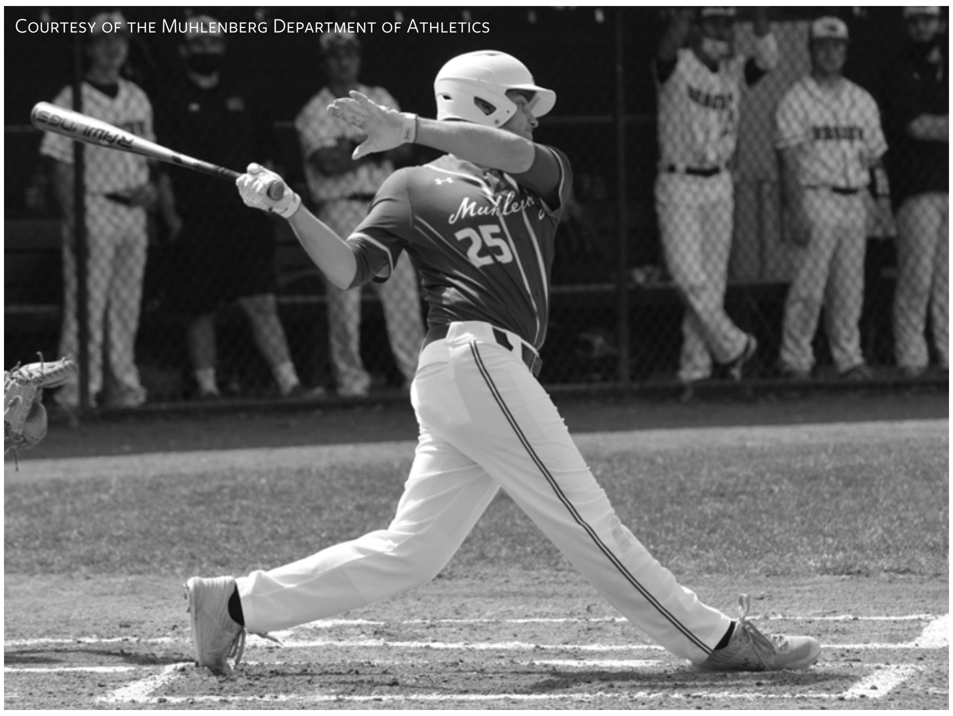
Muhlenberg's high powered offense was led by Danny Monzo '22. Monzo went two for four at the plate against the Wildcats on opening night and rounded out the tournament with an impressive .417 batting average. "It felt great to finally be able to get back on the field for a full season as it was a long winter and even longer two years with COVID." Monzo talked about how it was difficult to "feel 100% comfortable the first couple at bats after hitting inside the entire winter, but the comfort comes back after a while."

His favorite moment was being able to sweep Cazenovia, Rochester Institute of Technology and Gallaudet in convincing fashion along with getting to take a road trip, "with the guys for the first time in a year and a half." Recognizing that the Mules have a lot of talent this season, Monzo is excited for the season ahead, "We have a pretty solid all around group of guys and can really compete for a conference championship."

One of those "pretty solid" guys is Jayden Barroqueiro '25. In Barroqueiro's first ever collegiate outing he went six innings while giving up zero earned runs. For him, the whole experience reminded him of the countless hours put into the off-season, "[It] was a lot of fun. All of my teammates' support and all of the hard work put in this off season had prepared me for that day and let me go out there with lots of confidence," said Barroqueiro. That confidence led to Barroqueiro striking out eight members of the Gallaudet's in their home ballpark. While Barroqueiro was fanning batters left and right the "support from the team was there the whole game." He said, "While I was on the mound I could always hear them from the dugout."

A compliment that is going to stick with Barroqueiro came after the game from an unlikely source. Monzo, who had previously told Barroqueiro that he "had no drip… ended up taking back his comment after the game." On a more serious note, Barroqueiro said, "This weekend showed what we are capable of doing as a team. With the seniors being the only ones on the team to experience a full season we have a lot to prove. It is just the start of a long season and we have to keep going up from here.

Barroqueiro wasn't the only Muhlenberg pitcher to throw a gem. In the season opener the Mules were propelled to victory by Quinn Rovner '23. During his impressive performance on the mound, he managed to allow only two earned runs off of five hits through six innings to secure his first win as a starting pitcher.


Courtesy of the Muhlenberg Department of Athletics

Danny Monzo '22 hitting the baseball at home plate.

Getting the nod to be the opening day starter was meaningful to Rovner. He said, "It was an awesome thing to hear. Knowing that I had the faith of my coaches and team behind me to open up our season couldn't mean more to me." Rovner said that the biggest thing for him, "was throwing strikes and hitting my spots." He said, "I feel like I executed my pitches well and got some nice swings and misses. There were times when I needed to make some adjustments and reset, but I kept battling. I also have my infield to thank for making some great plays." He also made sure to thank Donovan Brady '22 for coming, "in and clos[ing] out the game to secure the win."

Despite the strong start to the season Rovner is not satisfied. He has two dates marked in his calendar. The first being the matchup against the back-to-back defending Centennial Conference Champion, Johns Hopkins University, on Apr. 23 at home and the second being the Centennial Conference Championship game which will take place 15 days later on May 8.

Until then, Muhlenberg will look to build on their strong performances from over the weekend as they will once again be traveling. This weekend they will be taking on Albright College and Eastern University.

The voice behind the Muhlenberg Mules

A sports broadcast relies heavily on one aspect to be successful: The commentator.

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

Whenever we watch a game on TV, there is an integral part of the broadcast that makes everyone want to tune in again next week: the commentator who calls the game. That is no different for Mule TV, the official streaming network of Muhlenberg athletics. Since 2016, Matt Heydt has been the commentator for the football and basketball games and is able to say he's working his dream job.

The magic for anyone in sports—whether it be athlete or non-athlete—always starts at a young age: "From the time I started watching sports on TV, I knew I wanted to be involved with broadcasting to some extent," said Heydt.

Heydt's journey to becoming a professional commentator was a long road that started when he was in college at Lock Haven University, where he was a journalism/mass communications major with an emphasis in radio/TV broadcasting. "I worked on my campus TV station as a sports anchor. For my internship, I did play-by-play of our football and basketball games on the radio. In terms of my professional experience, I worked for the local ESPN Radio affiliate (now FOX) for over a decade. That role led me to the Muhlenberg position back in 2016."

Heydt has used all that experience to create an authentic viewing for anyone who tunes in to Mule TV, giving fans the full scope of the game and the players. After all, that is the best part of being an announcer. "The thing I probably enjoy the most is being able to watch each game unfold and describe what I see from a fan's perspective, with a little added flare and personality. The stories that develop and the flow of the game is exciting to me."

With six years of calling games for the Mules, many memories were produced, but two in particular stand out for Heydt.

See **Voice** page 11

PHOTO COURTESY OF @MUHLENBERG_WRESTLING
MUHLENBERG
MULES

An aerial view of Scotty Wood Stadium.

THE ALL-WEEKLY TEAM

The All-Weekly Team is a segment that aims to bring more attention and recognition to Muhlenberg student-athletes who have achieved athletic excellence in the past week.

ERICA BORBI

Erica Borbi’s ‘25 first winter indoor track season has moved up to 3rd all-time in the indoor weight throw with a mark of 38’-3¼”. Borbi is slowly catching up to fellow teammate, Faith Fezenko ‘24, who re-set the current record to 42’-3½”.

MAX MAY

Max May ‘23 recorded 23 saves, the highest recorded total by a Mule since 2010 against National champ RIT Tigers. May’s previous career high was 15 saves.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Toomey Anderson ‘02 returns to Allentown

Alumnus recounts his time at Muhlenberg as a student-athlete and hopes for his new role as athletic director of Allentown School District.

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Asst. Sports Editor

As senior student-athletes reach their final midterms, their eyes look to the future, wondering where their Muhlenberg experience will take them. Almost 20 years after leaving Academic Row, one former student-athlete looks back on his formative years at Muhlenberg as he enters his new job as athletic director of the Allentown School District.

Toomey Anderson ‘02 came to Muhlenberg from Parkland High School as a basketball player with his eyes set on the education track. As an athlete, he certainly made his time at Muhlenberg count. Anderson scored 789 points wearing the number 10, with unselfish play at the point guard position passing the ball for a career total of 226 assists.

In Anderson’s sophomore year, the team had made their championship run after a 14-12 season. The road to the championship involved playing Franklin & Marshall College [F&M] who the Mules lost to by 12, but in the conference playoffs, the Mules came back with a vengeance. The team won the semifinal 76-58, in a hard-fought battle of lead changes that included a Muhlenberg 25-3 run in the second half. After making it to the finals, the Mules lost by nine to Gettysburg College, but not without a strong performance from Anderson— who was the second-highest scorer.

It is a moment that remains in Anderson’s mind, as he summarizes his career by saying, “We won a lot of games, didn’t quite win a championship, we lost the championship, my sophomore year here at Memorial Hall so that always stings and burns.”

In his senior year, Anderson demonstrated his overall athleticism when he joined the football team, sporting the number 81. It was the 2002 Muhlenberg homecoming game when Matt Bernardo ‘04, Anderson’s teammate, set the in-game touchdown record. These four touchdowns were only part of the 68 points that the team put up against F&M; One, was when Anderson contributed to this dominating box score by scoring his first career touchdown with 2:06 left in the fourth quarter.

Outside of his athletic career, Anderson entered Muhlenberg College living in “dirty Pross.” “But a little too much fun times in Teak [Tau Kappa Epsilon] and ATO [Alpha Tau Omega] and Prosser Hall” led to a change in major. Anderson decided to study political science, leaving him with fond memories of Mohsin Hashim Ph.D. professor of political science, and Chris Borick, Ph.D. director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

While he did not pursue a career in politics, deciding instead to be an educator, he adamantly defends his liberal arts education. “I know some people will tell you I know ‘I want to be a doctor, so why am I learning? Why am I going to an art class and so forth?’ I think about more well-rounded people, [which is what] most people are trying to strive to be. That aspect is very good.”

On top of an active academic, social and athletic life, Anderson found a way to stay involved in his hometown. “I worked on work-study or study hours for the [Office of Community Engagement]. And through that, we get Jefferson Field Day. That was one of the bigger events where kids from elementary school out here in Allentown come over to Muhlenberg to have a field day.” Coincidentally, that is one of the projects that Anderson is currently working on with Muhlenberg.

After graduating from Muhlenberg, Anderson had a short stint in Philadelphia teaching algebra to ninth-graders who had school code violations, an extremely rewarding experience. Then, he returned to the Lehigh Valley to assist, “Within the continental united media unit with emotionally disturbed kids, so forth. So I did that for about nine years. And then after that, connected with executive education, and it was starting an athletic program over there.” There he founded athletic programs ranging from softball to a very successful basketball program.

Now, entering his new position as athletic director of the Allentown School District, he will have to organize 16-17,000 compared to previously 1,400.

Anderson certainly wants to use his connections at Muhlenb“embodies a revolution that involved a clear departure from earlier, often one-dimensional portrayals of women in pro wrestling” (Horton, 159).erg to expand past the general use of the football field. He also wants to connect Muhlenberg dance students with Allentown schools. “I’m trying to develop programs for young students to get involved with, because that’s what keeps them engaged.”

Photo courtesy of Toomey Anderson ‘02

Anderson ‘02 shooting the ball.

Anderson demonstrates a fraction of the possibilities for Muhlenberg student-athletes. From balancing life as a student-athlete to creating programs for thousands of kids, Anderson is prepared and excited. In true Mule spirit, Anderson says, “It’s a very challenging project, but we’re very much looking forward to it.”

From **Voice** page 10

“My two favorite memories that come to mind would be calling a triple OT loss to Ursinus [College] in men’s basketball. Crazy back and forth game that came within a few seconds of going to a fourth OT. The second would be the football team beating Johns Hopkins University in 2019 to remain undefeated [the year the Mules went to the Final Four]. Everyone was so hyped for that game and it felt like Muhlenberg really got over the hump with the win over Hopkins.” To be able to call games this special is a once in a lifetime experience and Heydt has the ability to add his charisma to each one of these games.

Even though there is not as much national attention for DIII athletes, Heydt knows how hard these teams work. To be able to call their games and give them their acknowledgement on the broadcast is why Heydt loves commentating for Muhlenberg. And even without the high production of a D1 or professional broadcast, he still loves working with those who are able to help it all come together. “The student assistants that help me with the broadcast are great too. It’s a team effort and I really think we put on a first-class production.”

Heydt is quick to acknowledge that student-athletes are what make these games, and to be able to watch the development they go through in just four years is incredible. “The best part about working at Muhlenberg is seeing the athletes give everything they have, knowing that for most of them it will be the last time they play organized sports. They still have the love of the game without the big-time pressure of the D-I level. It’s awesome seeing growth from freshman to senior year in the different sports I broadcast.”

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Track is back as wrestling wraps

Muhlenberg Athletics are ready for the spring, ready to break records and take home trophies.

By Noah Berger
Staff Writer

Courtesy of Muhlenberg Department of Athletics

Brandon Bowles '25 (wrestling) ready to wrestle.

Brandon Bowles '25 is a 'Berg wrestler. Bowles is in his first season at the collegiate level and did not know what to expect. However, he has had a great mindset throughout his first season. Bowles shared, "As a team our chemistry could not be better. We support each other like family; we've also got each other's back no matter what." He added, "Personally I went through a lot dealing with trying to get back to 100% from my ACL surgery. I personally overcame a lot of adversity with that considering I haven't competed since before my surgery."

This past weekend, Bowles and the men's wrestling team participated in the NCAA Mid-East Regional Tournament in Elizabethtown, Pa. Over this two-day tournament, the Mules placed sixth out of 20 participating teams who were in attendance. Bowles was one of the two Muhlenberg wrestlers who qualified for the NCAA Division III Championship in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The championships are taking place on Mar. 11 and Bowles will represent Muhlenberg along with Joey Lamparelli '24. Heading into the DIII NCAA championships, Bowles' focus remains unchanged. He said, "My expectations are just like every other match and tournament, which is to just to leave everything I have out on the mat and have no regrets." Bowles' strong mindset proves that he is ready to compete against some of the most qualified wrestlers throughout the country.

Bowles credits his coaches and teammates for allowing him to be a strong presence on the mat this year. He said, "My mindset has [been] just to stay confident in myself and my abilities. Also to trust my coaches and teammates to get me where I need to be."

The Muhlenberg co-ed track team recently finished their indoor season, with high hopes heading for the outdoor season starting in just a few short weeks. Jason Ivey '23, reflected on his indoor season, but overall for the team as well.

Ivey said, "I'm pretty happy with my performance on Sunday because that was a culmination of all the effort I've put in over the season. This was my first season running indoor track and as such, my first 800 meter race was only a 2:15. But, by the end I was able to get my time down to a 2:08. We learned a lot from this season, and I think we're all eager to carry this momentum into the spring season." Ivey seems proud of his performance and looks forward to participating in the spring season. Ivey touched upon his personal goals. He said, "For the outdoor season, my personal goal is to run a sub 2:05 800 meter race. If I can do that, I'm confident that I can get my time down to the low two's by next year."

Ivey talked about the chemistry of the team. He said, "In my experience, the team chemistry this season has been fantastic. We are such a close knit group and everybody supports each other. We had a lot of injuries, but despite that, the injured would often come to the meets to support their teammates. What's more, when people are competing, it's amazing to see how invested they all are in each other's success. Whether it's racing, jumping or throwing you would always see teammates there on the sidelines screaming in support. It's a great group of people, and I'm grateful to be a part of it."

Courtesy of Muhlenberg Department of Athletics

Jason Ivey '23 (track) running to the finish line.

The Muhlenberg wrestling team had a successful season with two wrestlers going to nationals, and the track team is poised to ensure they perform the best that they can in the upcoming spring season. The track team opens their outdoor season on Mar. 4 with the AARTF Championship in Rochester, N.Y., and then comes back to the area for the Lafayette Open on Mar. 26.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Mar. 3 - Mar. 10

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Susquehanna
Sat, Mar. 5 @ 1:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Goucher
Sat, Mar. 5 @ 1:00 p.m.
Baltimore, Md.

Baseball
Muhlenberg vs Eastern
Sun, Mar. 6 @ 2:00 p.m.
St. Davids, Pa.

Women's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Delaware Valley
Wed, Mar. 9 @ 4:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Richeta Cubano '24 hosted her fourth Poetunity.

read more on 5

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022
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NEWS
'Berg community discussed current events in Ukraine.
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ARTS & CULTURE
"Unconquered" premiered.
read more on 5

OP/ED
Des Suarez '23 shares a poem.
read more on 8

SPORTS
Tennis struggles with losses.
read more on 12

'Berg reflects and urges for more change

The College talks about their aim to further DEI efforts

Muhlenberg College
Strategic Priorities and Recommendations
Source Timeline
Diversity Strategic Plan 2014-2019
College Strategic Plan 2017-2022
CREDO Policy Audit 2018
President's Diversity Advisory Council (PDAC)
Priority recommendations July 2020

Associate Provost Brooke Vick, Ph.D presents at community conversation.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE DICKEY '22

BY KATHERINE DICKEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Associate Provost for Faculty & Diversity Initiatives Brooke Vick, Ph.D., was the primary author of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Report for 2020-2021, released in fall 2021. The report outlines a plethora of community and institutional initiatives to further DEI on campus, in categories such as recruitment and retention, cultural awareness, student outcomes, campus climate and student support and institutional commitments and activities.

One part of the report was about recruiting and retaining faculty and students from diverse backgrounds. This year Muhlenberg hired 13 faculty of color, five of whom were appointed through the Consortium for Faculty Diversity (CFD).

"The consortium is a group of liberal arts colleges, that we pay dues to be part of this consortium. And our goal collectively is to increase the diversity of faculty at liberal arts colleges in particular... What we're able to do [through CFD] is to host fellows that serve in postdoctoral roles," explained Vick. "These are new faculty who have just gotten their Ph.D.s who have not moved into tenure track positions yet and are looking for experience teaching and working in a liberal arts college environment. So it's a win-win relationship between the institution and the scholars." One of these faculty members has already moved into a tenure track position in the Africana studies program and psychology department.

Vick adds, "[The College] just tenured the most diverse group of faculty we ever have, we tenured five faculty members of color, in a group of 11." She explained that this is a result of the College advocating for more equitable recruitment and hiring processes through extensive training.

One highlight from the report that Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and co-chair of the Africana studies program, pointed out was support for the new Graduate School Preparatory Program (GSPP), saying, "We've gotten a lot of support from the community for that; there are over 40 people who volunteered to be part of the Committee. The GSPP is geared toward helping students from underrepresented groups apply to graduate schools, so the widespread support from the community shows how deeply committed people across the College are to that mission."

Kucik also talked about the new curriculum change happening in several departments, including music and English, as well as a proposed race and power general academic requirement that has come as a result of the Black faculty letter of June 2020. Kucik said, "In the letter, we had requested that the school institute requirements in studying anti-Blackness and the roots of that in the United States. We wanted to institute requirements for courses that explained how we got to the murder of George Floyd. We need all students to receive education about that history. We are seeing that the College took our comments about that need seriously, and curriculum changes are being made."

There's also a relatively new group on campus called Student Advocates for Inclusion and Diversity (SAID). They hope to work closely with DEI chairs around campus as well as taking some of the weight off of DEI chairs by working with executive boards of different organizations to make sure that diversity, equity and inclusion are considered at every level.

Kelsey Casimir '23, president of SAID, explained, "I feel like when there are problems with DEI, the first person people reach out to is Miss Robin Riley-Casey, because she is the director of Multicultural Life. She's an assistant dean of students.

SEE **DEI** PAGE 8

Shankweiler Scholars host sleep lecture

BY MATTHEW KLINGER
STAFF WRITER

On Mar. 2, Shelley Hershner, M.D., associate professor at University of Michigan Medical School, gave a lecture on the importance of sleep. The lecture was hosted by the Shankweiler Scholars program, an honors program focused on pre-health students. The majority of the lecture was based on her medical knowledge as a sleep neurologist to give students a better understanding of the consequences of a lack of sleep and how to improve poor sleep habits. According to Hershner, a lack of sleep is usually defined as sleeping less than seven to nine hours. There are four main aspects of life that are impacted by a lack of sleep: learning, obesity, mood and accidents.

When it comes to learning, a lack of sleep has been shown to be the third biggest barrier to academic performance. Not having enough sleep can significantly hurt memory and brain processing. In fact, Hershner mentioned that pulling an all-nighter to study for a test will

SEE **SLEEP** PAGE 4

"She is Muhlenberg." If "she" is white.

BY CYDNEY WILSON
MANAGING EDITOR

On Mar. 8, International Women's Day, the Muhlenberg College Instagram, @muhlenbergcollege, posted a video attempting to highlight women on campus. Nearly all of the women featured speaking in the video were white. The Muhlenberg community responded with anger, frustration and disappointment at the lack of intersectional representation.

Students who participated in the video, such as Allison Mintz '23, shared "I definitely wouldn't have contributed my video to this project if I knew it would turn out to be such a harmful misrepresentation of women at Muhlenberg." Mintz also commented directly on the post, saying, "I am noticing every person who contributed is indeed white. Let's work to make sure this account shows intersectionality and a true representation of our college!"

Eva Vaquera '23 commented "For a school that preaches their diversity initiatives, all I saw was white." Adding in remarks to the Weekly, "Muhlenberg prides itself with its increasing diverse student population but does nothing to maintain that population."

Britney Jara '23 commented, "There are many women of color and female identifying POC [people of color] on campus that

SEE **SHE** PAGE 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Editor-In-Chief
Alex Blum
Managing Editor
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Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

02/28/2022
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
Prosser Lot: Report of vehicle illegally parked, vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer, boot later removed.
Brown Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.

03/01/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of suspicious activity, individuals spoken to, no further incident.

03/02/2022
Albright Street (400 BLK): Report of suspicious person, upon arrival area checked, nothing could be found.

03/04/2022
Benfer Hall: Report of possession of marijuana, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.
23rd/Gordon Streets: Report of noise complaint, residents spoken to, no further incident.

03/05/2022
N. 22nd Street: Report of noise complaint, residents spoken to, no further incident.
East Hall: Report of alcohol violation, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
Martin Luther Hall: Report of vandalism, unknown individual broke window, investigation to continue.
Benfer Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
Sorority House: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
N. 23rd Street: Report of noise complaint, residents spoken to, no further incident.

03/06/2022
Gordon Street: Report of noise complaint, residents spoken to, no further incident.
Brown Hall: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
Tilghman Street: Report of noise complaint, residents spoken to, Allentown Police Department responded, Disruptive Conduct Reports will be issued by Allentown Police Department and Campus Safety.

Check out what's new in the bakery case!
WE PROUDLY SERVE
TM
java joe

From **She** page 1

have done incredible change and work on campus. We're constantly saying that they deserve recognition and support for their hard work yet celebrating them through this video wasn't an option/idea is very contradicting. Like everyone else said, please think about being more inclusive and actually representing everyone on campus. This is feeding into white privilege and racism and if there is a change to this post, please keep in mind that while representation matters we are also not looking for performative activism and that will also not solve this issue. As a woman of color that holds many leadership positions on campus, I'm very disappointed but sadly not surprised by this."

Jara added in response to the Weekly, "If the school did ask women of color and women of diverse backgrounds and identities then we need to ask ourselves the question of why these women didn't feel inclined/willing to participate. We need to change in order to create a safe and comfortable space where women can participate knowing the College will represent their authentic selves."

A recurring issue brought up by students was the lack of notice given to affinity groups to contribute to the video.

Imany Zorrilla '23 commented on the post, "You reached out to affinity groups LAST NIGHT and could not wait a day for our response videos, don't blame us for lack of submission. Do better."

"If we were actually informed that you guys were making a video I'm sure many of us would've been happy to be a part of it!" shared Dondrea Wynter '22. "Muhlenberg do better all around. You guys continuously prove how unsupportive you guys are in regards to people of color on your campus time and time again in all areas. Practice what you preach for once. If you wanna be about diversity then be about [it] and stop doing it for show, or whenever we have an issue."

″For a school that preaches their diversity initatives, all I saw was white.″

Zorrilla added, "They [Muhlenberg] commented on the post claiming they had 'additional posts planned that better represent full diversity.' Regardless of the slim chance they were waiting for our responses to make future posts, the original was sent out with no second thought. Faculty and students of color are never given proper recognition, it's getting exhausting."

The College offered a comment in an acknowledgement, stating "You are 100% correct about this video and the lack of representation. When the submissions for this video did not truly represent the campus community, we should have held off on the post. We are truly sorry for this and recognize our error." The College Instagram goes on to apologize, and state that they will do better, saying, "We will work to make sure that we broaden the number of people who review posts of this nature to help ensure that it does not happen again."

This comment was far from satisfactory for the student body. Gabriella Morales '22 responded to it, stating "1. Let's not blame it on women of color for not submitting anything. 2. Maybe they would've been more inclined to participate if they actually felt like they were a part of the community 3. Who exactly did you ask because I know of plenty 4. When students express their discomfort with something, a comment should not be seen as a valid response. Do better."

This is far from the first time that the College has been called out for problematic Instagram posts, with @muhl_sports being highlighted for posting a photo of athletes not correctly wearing their masks just weeks ago.

Mintz suggested, "With the College Instagram having unforgivable slip-up after slip-up, it might be in the institution′s best interest to hire a DEI [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion] associate for their emails and social media, instead of asking students of marginalized identities for their opinions without paying them."

The student body's frequent need to hold the College accountable following unacceptable actions has become exhausting for many.

As stated by Morales, Wynter, Zorrilla and others, the College needs to "do better."

′Berg community reacts to flexible masking

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

On Mar. 3, members of the Muhlenberg community received an email from the College with the subject line "COVID-19 Masking Policy Update." This message announced the change to a flexible masking policy to be instituted beginning on Mar. 7. This came a mere three days after the official implementation of the Yellow Phase.

Originally, the Yellow Phase was announced on Feb. 25 in an email from President Kathleen Harring. The regulations stated that, "Masks will still be required indoors for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. There is discretion given to faculty in classroom settings, employees in their private offices and flexibility with regard to meetings as well as student club and organization rehearsals and performances."

The Yellow Phase was the standard during the fall 2021 semester. But it lasted only a week this semester, beginning on Feb. 28 and ending on Mar. 7. As of this Monday, the College has moved to "flexible masking," wherein masks are required only in healthcare settings, such as the Health Center, and for individuals who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19 for a full ten days after their onset of symptoms or their exposure. As far as masking in classrooms is concerned, that is left up to the discretion of individual instructors.

For now, the policy within many classroom spaces seems to be largely unchanged. The main factor for this decision, according to many professors, is the upcoming break. "While I acknowledge that numbers of cases are significantly down in the Lehigh Valley and around the country, and I can see the interest in moving towards a more flexible masking policy on campus, I feel the timing is unfortunate," stated Eileen McEwan, Ph.D., associate professor of French & francophone studies. "We are about to go on spring break in a week and many of us will be spending time or living with elderly parents and grandparents, young children under five who can′t be vaccinated, immunocompromised individuals, and other more vulnerable populations. I believe it is in their interests and for their protection that we should remain masked in the classroom until spring break and at least one week following our return."

Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., co-director of the Africana studies program and assistant professor of English and Africana studies, echoed this sentiment, stating, "I will be requiring masks in the classroom for next week and, at bare minimum, at least a few weeks after spring break – and, potentially, for the whole semester, depending on what the numbers look like after the break and moving forward. Once we get a sense of the COVID numbers in the weeks following spring break/following the masking changes across campus and around the country, then I can get a better sense of what we will do for the rest of the semester."

She added that this was a decision that she made with community wellness in mind, stating, "I am making all decisions with the goal of centering the needs of our most vulnerable community members. If that means we wear masks in my classrooms all semester, then that is what we will do. As I noted, I will read all of the data about the impact of the policy changes in the weeks following spring break, but my guiding priority through all of this will be centering the needs of those who are most vulnerable to COVID (and those who have family members who are particularly vulnerable)."

photo by Rebecca Clark '23

Students hang out in Seegers, some without masks due to the new masking policy.

To some faculty, this decision indicates that consideration for our more vulnerable community members has fallen by the wayside. "This policy change was executed without community consultation and consideration. This is not in keeping with community-like and community-minded practices, and [is] dangerous for institutions of higher learning like ours," stated Janine Kay Gwen Chi, Ph.D., professor of sociology. "There should have been a more organized and thoughtful set of guidelines to have a more systematic roll-out of this change. Leaving individuals to decide for themselves creates confusion and misunderstandings… During this difficult period of the pandemic, we have seen the rapid erosion of accountability and trust in systematic processes. I fear that this most recent announcement further demonstrates this erosion."

"It′s really… a mess," summarized Maura Finkelstein, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology. "I′m really disappointed in this country in general. And I wish the College didn′t feel pressured to follow national trends… It′s disappointing that, as a collective, we are not doing better, but I will continue to require masking in my classroom, regardless of the country′s and college′s policies. I hope my colleagues will continue to do the same."

For students, negative opinions seemed to boil down to the speed at which this new policy was adopted. "I think it's crazy how fast we moved from the yellow phase to the flexible indoor masking

See **Masking** page 8

’Berg hosts discussion on events in Ukraine

By Gabi Hirshfield
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Mar. 1, the political science department held a webinar on the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. Beginning on Feb. 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin initiated an attack on Ukraine, marking the start of a significant conflict between the two nations. The webinar was held in order to give context for the attack, answer questions and hear from experts about what we might expect in the near future.

The webinar was run by Lanethea Mathews-Schultz, Ph.D., department chair and professor of political science. The panel consisted of Mohsin Hashim, Ph.D., a professor of political science, director of the Russian studies program and director of the Dana Scholars program; Julie Shoults, Ph.D., a visiting lecturer in German and women’s and gender studies; Brian Mello, Ph.D., professor of political science and director of Muhlenberg’s Center for Ethics; and Lauren C. Anderson ‘79, a distinguished graduate of Muhlenberg and former Federal Bureau of Investigation executive with national security expertise.

Hashim began the discussion by giving some context on Russia’s political climate. He described the collapse of the Soviet Union and the loss of 110,000 kilometers of territory. He stated, “From the Russian perspective, Russia’s regional and global security concerns and interests were disregarded as the country was afforded a second-class status of a defeated power.” With the collapse of the Soviet Union came the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the European Union (EU). Hashim said, “NATO and EU expansion reified Russian distrust of American hegemony and intensified a sense of Russian humiliation that was born out of what it called unilateral concessions.” In short, “Russia felt that it deserved to be afforded the status of an equal partner in a restructured European security system.”

Hashim continued saying, “We often rush to Putin immediately when thinking about Russian apprehension and Russian aggression. But this is where I say it’s important to pause and remember that this enchantment with the west grew before Putin and it led to an assertive national security posture even within the Yeltsin administration.”

Putin has described modern Ukraine as being a constant threat to Russian power and has claimed that he is attempting to “de-Nazify” Ukraine, despite the fact that there is no genocide in Ukraine, and their president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is Jewish. The conflict’s true origin seems to be Ukraine forming closer ties with NATO and the EU.

As a professor of German studies, Shoults gave a perspective on the conflict, shedding light on the chancellor of Germany, Olaf Shultz’s opinion. “He made several important announcements that speak to the magnitude of the situation. Germany has a longstanding principle in the aftermath of World War II of not sending or selling weapons to conflict zones and also not authorizing weapons made in Germany to be sold to other countries either, but this aggression threatens the entire post-war world and post-war order. Germany will be sending weapons to Ukraine.” Shoults also described how the traditionally neutral Switzerland has adopted sanctions placed by the EU.

Shoults also discussed the current humanitarian crisis at hand in terms of Ukrainian refugees. Countries like Poland are welcoming refugees, but Shoults pointed out how this was not the case for other humanitarian crises that occurred in non-European countries. “These Ukrainian refugees are largely white Europeans, majority Christian. They have a legal right to enter Poland and other EU countries without visas and these circumstances have been different for refugees coming from the Middle East and Africa in recent years. So, we also see that racism and Islamophobia are apparent in the language being used.”

Shoults pointed out the struggles of international students in Ukraine right now who are struggling to find refuge because they are not white. “I’ve also been reading reports of non-white residents of Ukraine including Africans who are studying and working in Ukraine being stopped at the Polish border and not allowed to cross. Though these reports are being denied by officials and border patrols, Nigerians are the second-largest group of foreign students in Ukraine and the Nigerian government has not offered support or assistance. These international students and workers contribute to the economy in Ukraine but are not valued or protected in the same way, as evidenced by their treatment right now in trying to escape the danger.” With over 600,000 individuals displaced as a result of this conflict, it is vital to note the overt racial discrimination of this conversation.

Anderson gave some additional context from a national security standpoint and from her experiences in dealing with the Russians at the height of the Cold War. She stated, “In more than three decades of work in the national security intelligence and geopolitical space globally, there is one truism that has stood consistently: Russia will keep us in its crosshairs. We understood how the Russians operated and we’ve watched them do so very successfully for decades. The Russians are formidable, intelligent and tenacious.” Put simply, “Putin has created a completely unnecessary geopolitical and humanitarian crisis with significant economic and financial implication for much of the world.”

Students on campus are concerned about the Ukrainian crisis. Rebecca Salkin ’24, a political science major, said “I am concerned for the citizens of both Ukraine and Russia. They are all undeserving of the pain they are being put through at someone else’s hands.” Regarding the conversations that are happening on campus, Salkin states, “I think that if a student wanted to have a conversation about the war, it would be easy enough to start. I also have found that certain spaces lend themselves to having that conversation more than others.”

Maddie Davidson ‘25 spoke on the horrifying events recently, saying, “I’ve been thinking about World War II and the Holocaust and when we learned about it I would always wonder what was going on in America while it was all going down? How can people be sitting there learning and laughing while people were being murdered? But that’s the reality of war and genocide and misfortune.”

From **Sleep** page 1

most likely result in a worse test score than going to bed instead of studying. After outlining how sleep deprivation hurts learning, Hershner gave a few tips on how to prevent a lack of sleep from hurting academic performance. First, she suggests that students try to keep a consistent sleep schedule; sleep inconsistency can result in high levels of hormones and neurotransmitters that decrease academic performance. Secondly, she told students to take a nap, but only if it did not make it harder to fall asleep at night. Her final recommendation for students struggling academically due to sleep deprivation was to adopt the motto that some “sleep is better than no sleep.” Even if it is just two or three hours, it can significantly improve academic performance.

The next area she focused on was the relationship between sleep deprivation and nutrition. According to Hershner, sleep deprivation causes satiety hormones to decrease and hunger hormones to increase, irrespective of the amount of food consumed. In addition to getting enough sleep to academically perform well, Hershner urged students to get enough sleep to make sure that their bodies were getting the right amount of nutrition and energy, with a lack of sleep resulting in bigger health problems.

The last two parts of her lecture focused on the relationship between sleep and mood and sleep and accidents. According to Hershner, the inability to sleep increases the risk of depression by 200 percent and an insufficient amount of sleep increases the risk of depression by 140 percent. The mental health issues that arise from a lack of sleep are especially problematic because of their far-reaching effects like poor appetite, sleep and motivation, which can further harm academic performance and result in a worse sleep quality. That lack of sleep can also result in an increased risk of car accidents. Hershner discussed this, saying that a driver who has insufficient sleep has the same impairment as someone who is driving drunk. Being sleep deprived significantly impairs awareness and reaction time.

Hershner ended her lecture giving students tips on how to help improve poor sleep. Her first suggestion was to improve your sleep environment. This can include having white noise, earplugs, a dark room and making sure the space is at a cool temperature before going to sleep. Another suggestion she had was to limit screen exposure prior to falling asleep. While most phones have a night mode, “studies have shown they are practically useless.” According to Hershner, even shutting off your phone ten minutes before going to bed can make a big difference. The last suggestion she gave was to limit caffeine intake. Having caffeine after 11 a.m. can prevent necessary sleep hormones from being released on time, causing insomnia and poor sleep quality.

Students had mixed responses to the lecture. Esther Klinger ‘25 responded saying, “I found the sleep lecture to be very interesting, and while Hershner did have some good points, I can’t see myself actually implementing any of the suggestions she gave. My life is simply too busy to balance everything while getting a sufficient amount of sleep.”

One anonymous student was glad to have attended the lecture, saying “I always knew that sleep was very important, but learning about the detrimental effects of having a lack of sleep really showed me how important it is to have a consistent sleep schedule.”

"What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and it's grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible." - Rep. John Lewis

"Unconquered" conquers the stage

By Ian Clark
Asst. A&C Editor

In September 2021, Frederick Earl Mosley visited Muhlenberg to present his new dance production "Unconquered." The dance film was Mosley's response to the events of 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless others.

Mosley used dance as a way to communicate his thoughts surrounding the protests and the way that people can bring about change through voice and art. Part of Mosley's thought process surrounding "Unconquered" was the way protest changes between generations. Mosley focused on how protest decades ago is different from protest now. The generational difference is what drew Mosley to Muhlenberg, seeing the students as a new voice to breathe life into "Unconquered" and make their own version of it.

Mosley comes to Muhlenberg as the theatre and dance department's Baker Artist-In-Residence and has been working with students on "Unconquered" as a semester-long project that was performed on Friday, Mar. 4. The production stayed true to Mosley's original vision while adding in new elements from the students' perspectives; such as new dances altogether or reimaginings of pieces from the original.

photo courtesy of Madison Cornelius '23

"Unconquered" is unique in many ways, mainly in reference to the heavy reliance on written and spoken word rather than just music. Like the original, Muhlenberg's "Unconquered" features dance set to speeches by Rep. John Lewis and George W. Bush as well as the poetry of Maya Angelou. But something new about Muhlenberg's production is the feature of student-written spoken word pieces performed by AnnaMaria Fernandez '24, Sarah Hauk '25, Jordan Lavalle '25, Florian Hurlbert '25 and Arianna Tilley '22.

The performance also featured some moments of audience interaction that brought the audience closer to both the performance and the issues being discussed. Cast members stood in the crowd performing their spoken-word pieces as well as an a cappella cover of the song "Feeling Good" by Nina Simone. Cast member and Visiting Professor of Theatre, Dance and Directing Nigel Semaj also directly engaged in a call and response with the audience for some portions. "I like that the people involved were totally immersed, literally and figuratively," said audience member Maddie Davidson '25. "They were audience members, but they were also participants. And we were participants but also audience members, it was a very blurry line, which I appreciated."

"Mosley is incredible, to say the least," cast member Steven Belloise '25 commented when talking about the production process. "He knows every single step of the choreography and immediately corrects if he sees our footing or focus is off and he knows exactly what the problem is each time, too… he really pushes us to be sharper… it's not quite anything I've ever been a part of."

When reflecting on the message of the production as a whole, Hurlbert said, "This process has really opened my eyes to the role of the arts in activism. I can see now that my story is just as valuable to hear as anyone else's, and that it is important to share our stories… I hope some people feel heard/seen, or could relate and gain a sense of community… I hope this spurs them to learn more in whatever way suits them and take some action… There are a lot of ways to help and grow a movement… We are stronger working together, not fighting each other."

Sidney Caruth '23 said, "Watching 'Unconquered' was an amazing experience. When I watch shows at Muhlenberg I often think 'why this piece here?' This performance moved me in so many different ways. I left the Empie Theater with questions. First I questioned myself, and what I saw, and how that aligned with my identities. Then I thought of the institution, and wondered what next? A piece like this should not go on without question. It was beautiful, and I hope people are still thinking about it."

"Unconquered" was a piece that blurred the lines between theatre and dance. It incorporated so many different mediums of performance art in order to tell the story of unity and hope in a time where there is little of that going around. Much like with the original film, Mosley hopes that this isn't the end, because while viewing art that depicts social issues is one thing, to actually make change is the true goal.

Tilley said, "One of the things that I take away from the show was just the energy of the audience. To see people so invested in making change, and wanting to know more was the greatest feeling you could ever have after putting on something like that. I think what made it so unique was how unique we each were as dancers, singers, as creators. We have so many vast talents and I think that was really unique to the experience."

"I'm glad that we were able to make a show that people felt inspired by. There's a lot of injustices in the world that everyone needs to wake up to if they haven't already. There's a lot of reasons for people to go out and fight, protest or vote if they aren't already. Despite 'Unconquered' being great for awareness, it's simply step one to making significant change in society… The show reaffirms that despite all the evil in the world, there's so much worth protecting," said Belloise.

Poetunity encourages vulnerability

By Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant

On Mar. 4, Richeta Cubano '24 hosted her fourth Poetunity Open Mic Night, where poets, singers and other artists alike came together to showcase their talents in the Red Door Cafe. When students walked in on Friday night, they were greeted with snacks, refreshments and a warm atmosphere.

Cubano shared what it felt like to host this event. "It feels so impactful and I am proud that I was able to host my fourth Poetunity event. Seeing how intimate the event became and how much creatives are being affected by the space inspires me to continue making a space for them to blossom and be great."

Tommy Kelly '24 said that it was "An eclectic, cozy environment for people to bare their souls and perform without judgment."

Performers expressed how great the event went. Naava Wilson '25, who performed an original song, said, "I think the event went great! There were so many talented performers and Richeta really knows how to put a show together. It's really amazing getting to do Poetunity because you really get to bring yourself to your performance and the audience is overwhelmingly supportive." Keshawn McDowdell '24, who performed a spoken word, added, "I think the event went well, and it spoke to a lot of people. Everyone's poetry came from a special place, and I'm glad everyone got a chance to showcase that."

The theme of this semester's Poetunity was "A Peak Into My Soul." Cubano explained that the theme "was inspired by the intention of having creators dig deep and be vulnerable with not only themselves but with others. Helping everyone see that no one is going through anything alone." When performers heard about the theme, they had to reflect on their lives and emotions that they wanted to reveal

OPEN MIC:
A PEAK INTO
MY SOUL
RED DOORS
MARCH 4TH

photo by Rebecca Clark '23

Richeta Cubano '24 recites her poetry.

See **Poetunity** page 7

Endless chaos with "You are Cordially Invited"

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

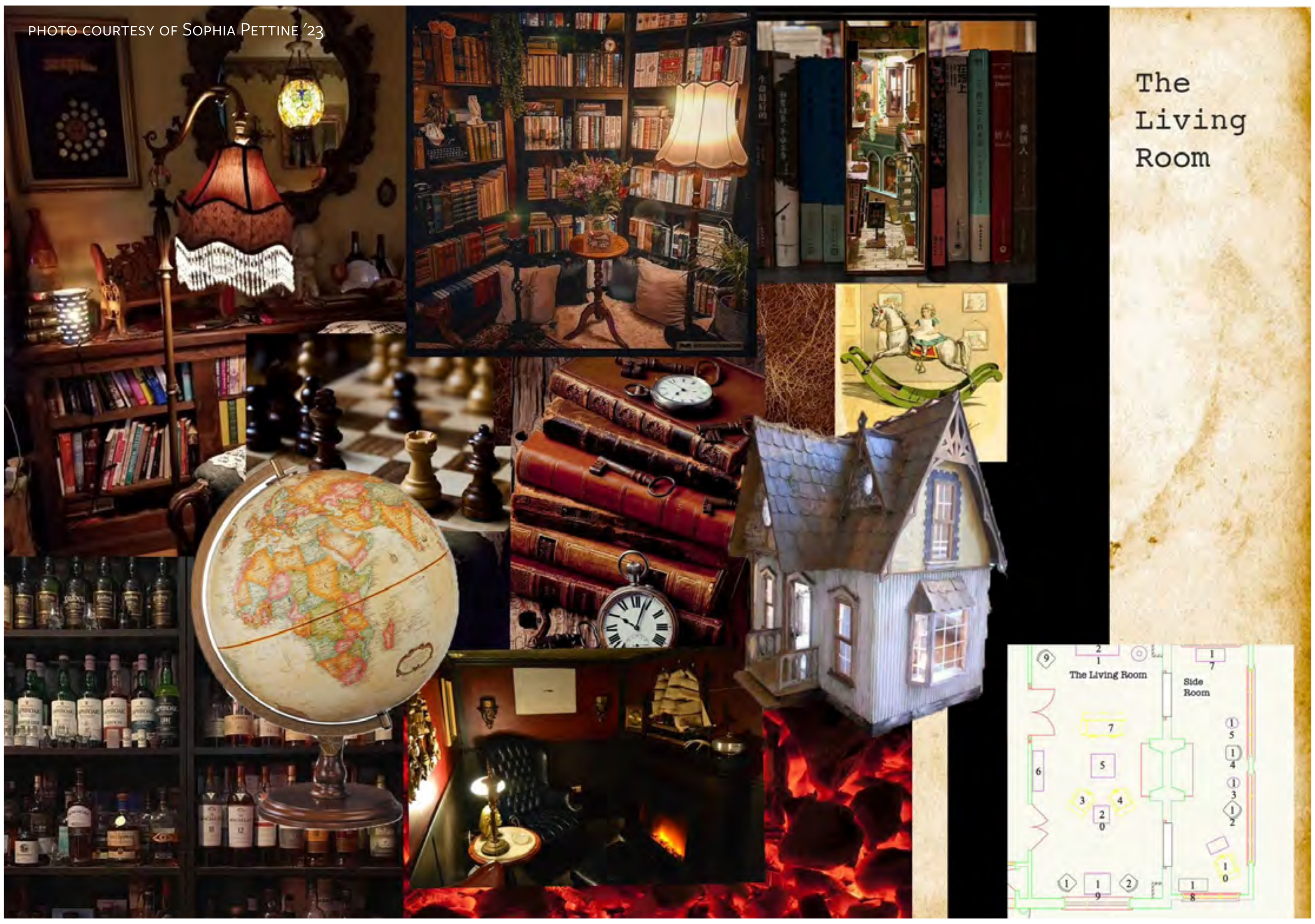

PHOTO COURTESY OF Sophia Pettine '23

Some of the moodboards and inspiration for the set of "Cordially."

The Hoffman House is a notable place for Muhlenberg events on campus, from alumni dinners to being the welcoming location for students during orientation weekend. However, the space was held for a family dinner hosted by a new family to grace the Muhlenberg community, the Crowlin family.

The Muhlenberg theatre and dance department hosted the first Assembly performance of the semester with "You Are Cordially Invited." The piece welcomed guests to a grand party with an immersive experience between the actors and audience members. The performance space allowed for everyone to share the same experiences as the actors. It was real interaction in real time.

"Working in the Hoffman House as opposed to a theatrical stage has its pros and cons. When the audience has permission to interact with you, it can change the course of how the flow of a scene goes, but it's very interesting in terms of breaking the fourth wall and was personally helpful as an actor to learn how to navigate certain changes throughout both the process and performances, continued Hannah Verdun '24, Myra Crowlin in the production. "It was a blast to perform."

Verdun's character Myra, the proud owner of the Hoffman House (or so the audience is led to believe), is the host of the party with her mysterious husband Vaughn Crowlin so they could celebrate their anniversary. The party only gets more insane from here, as the audience explores the Hoffman House and the secrets located in the props, costumes and other areas.

"The process was far different than any other show I have worked on in the past, although this was my first Muhlenberg production, so in terms of Muhlenberg shows, I don't have much to compare it to," stated Katie Harris '24, who played the role of Charlotte in "Cordially."

The group of actors worked together with the director, Sarah Levine '22, and assistant director, Margery Leit '24, to create the script from scratch. The devising process first started with character work and focus and then opened up to discovering the story of the Crowlin family and the mysteries in store.

Verdun stated, "The process changed over time. Absolutely had its learning curves but by the end we were definitely into a rhythm which worked to curate a unique script and which multiple scenes were happening at the same time in different places of the house."

Levine allowed for the devising process to flow and for the Crowlin family to be discovered.

"When something wasn't working, Sarah had the courage and determination to work through it with us. She made sure that each and every cast and crew member was able to share their voice and contribute to the show," stated Harris.

Samantha Kalt '23 served as the production stage manager for the piece and helped to make sure the devising process flowed smoothly. While it was not a traditional show, Kalt still filled out rehearsal reports, but not recording blocking and calling the show.

"Due to this being a devising piece, there was no script from the beginning, so as scenes were being developed, there was no blocking to take down," stated Kalt.

The dialogue flowed from written scenes between characters to improvisation with audience members. Conversations could be heard regarding the family's jewelry, birds, beautiful ferrets hanging on the stairway railing and even time travel.

The Crowlin family consisted of Myra, Vaughn, Cordelia, Delphine, Vaughn Jr., Wren and Vera, the niece and nephew, in addition to the guests and family staff. Charlotte, the maid, and Amelia, the family assistant, both helped to add more chaos to the house and to continue the mystery. Terrance Thatcher, Clyde Marcus, and Jessica Wicker were the guests and moved the plot forward as Wicker hunted for various items on a list.

Amanda Carter '23, who played Delphine, mentioned, "Everyone's reality and perception of the world depends on their experiences and what they've heard. So it was really like every audience member just attended the Crowlin's party and left with their individual experiences of the evening."

The Hoffman House also had its own distinctive character thanks to the design work of Sophia Pettine '23, scenic designer, and Tryston Morgan '23, lighting designer. The costumes also helped to create a notable impression on audience members, from Myra's grand white wig to the large tutu of Harris' dress.

"And the design team did such an outstanding job of creating a consistent ambiance throughout the house that really reflected the Crowlin family– their design made it easy to remain in character and feel like I was really in the Crowlin home," continued Carter.

"Our design team was absolutely top notch. When I had heard who was working on it in the beginning of the rehearsal process, I knew it was going to be something amazing. And it definitely was," Harris declared.

"You Are Cordially Invited" was a showcase for the talent and energy of the devising group and the wonderful work of the designers. The house was filled with taxidermy birds and these were utilized in cooperation with the Acopian Center for Ornithology and Peter Saenger, Acopian Ornithological Specialist. Leit even assigned each actor a bird to co-align with their characters. It was birds galore.

"Since the beginning of the creative process, birds kept coming up. For me, the bird imagery became solidified when it became a part of early character work. I was sent a diagram of the characters and their assigned birds... I think the birds might've started as a joke at first, but then it became VERY real. To that, I thank Peter Saenger! Getting to work with him and the bird museum was one of my favorite parts of the entire creative process," stated Pettine.

"The design team helped us in more ways than one. Aside from the fact that everyone's work was phenomenal, the prop work of Sophia Pettine allowed us to make the Crowlin home come to life, Tryston's lighting set the entire machine room, and Jacob's costuming was absolutely sensational and allowed for all of the actors to further their success in staying in character the entire show while interacting with the audience members," declared Verdun.

Even before the script was finalized for the actors, the setting and props help to situate the world of the Crowlin family.

Pettine continued, "I had no idea what the story would need, so I ended up trying to create a word for the actors to react off of, and build their story from there. I settled on the designated spaces (Dining Room, Halfway Room, Living Room, Side Room, and Machine Room), then created a tailored idea/aesthetic board for each. From there, the actors took it and ran."

"You Are Cordially Invited" was a success overall and allowed for audience members and performers to have a night to remember forever.

Kalt exclaimed, "It was also really cool that it was a devised piece that was done in an immersive, interactive, audience included way! Everything about the show pretty much stayed the same, but there were a few minor changes that happened at each performance due to the audience interaction and it was really interesting to watch it all unfold!"

"I really hope the audience had just as much of a blast watching this performance as we did finally putting everything together," concluded Harris.

Mazel tov on your "Mule Mitzvah"

By Cydney Wilson
Managing Editor

On Saturday, Mar. 5, the Great Room in Seegers Union filled with students celebrating a bar/bat mitzvah. Or—more aptly—a "Mule Mitzvah." "Mule Mitzvah" is "a dance party celebrating life and Jewish tradition," as articulated by Student Government Association (SGA) and Hillel, the two groups who hosted the event.

Allison Mintz '23, executive secretary of SGA, conceived of the idea for the event. She shared, "I thought about how many of my friends and peers have never been to a bar or bat mitzvah despite attending a school with a large Jewish population. Growing up in an area with a somewhat significant Jewish population, going to bat and bar mitzvahs every Saturday night was such a fun and important aspect of my social and Jewish experiences, and I wanted to take some of the best elements of b'nai mitzvah parties and bring them to a campus-wide event!"

The event featured airbrush tattoos, free socks for the dance floor, popular party games such as "Coke and Pepsi," "Limbo" and much more.

Ben Eber '23, SGA vice president said, "It was amazing that student government and Hillel could collaborate and bring an authentic Jewish experience to the entire Muhlenberg community."

Alcohol was provided for students over 21, while a just-as-exciting shirley temple station was available as an alternative for all students. Snacks included finger foods such as spring rolls and pigs-in-a-blanket, as well as a wide array of desserts.

Maya Brooks '24, an SGA representative on the campus engagement committee, added, "The goal was a celebration of Jewish culture that everyone, whatever religious affiliation someone practices, could enjoy… I hope that everyone that came was able to learn a little bit about bar and bat mitzvahs and enjoyed the fun, food and festivities."

The event was handled with sensitivity, as to be sure that Jewish culture was being respected. Brooks explained, "Our SGA committee… worked closely with Hillel to make sure we were handling everything appropriately."

Mintz added, "My biggest priority with this event was making sure we had Hillel involvement and approval. Even though I myself had a bat mitzvah, I never want to use my Jewish experiences inappropriately."

The event was a success, with students from a variety of backgrounds sharing that they enjoyed it.

Cat Duncan '23 shared, "'Mule Mitzvah'" was a good way to connect students from all different walks of campus. The music, dancing, activities, and food and drinks all made for a fun night!"

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11am-2pm
at Jay's Local
Jay's Local
Join us this weekend for
2
local small business
Pop-Up Shops!
SATURDAY
SUNDAY
Boodelicious Cakes
Jay's Local
Boodelicious
Cakes
Pop-Up Shop
Sunday March 13
11am-2pm
at Jay's Local

"Squeeze Her Hand" debuts

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

On Friday, Mar. 4, and Saturday, Mar. 5, the Muhlenberg music department presented a performance of "Squeeze Her Hand," an original song cycle by Will Howitt '23, in the Baker Center for the Arts Recital Hall.

"Squeeze Her Hand" tells a story through the eyes of Howitt's family, as they cope with the passing of their beloved Bubbe in different ways.

The production was presented with the help of both faculty and students within the music department, including staff accompanist Vincent Trovato, whose piano accompaniment of the live performance provided a dynamic foundation for the storytelling that would transpire over the duration of the experience.

Additionally, the creative team was joined by Brian Chu, adjunct professor of voice, who took on the role of vocal coach. Each week, Chu would meet with the singers, and worked through the specifics of the songs in terms of both acting and musicality.

"What struck me most during the process of coaching the singers to find their essential connection to the thoughts of Will′s family members—was how, by telling their personal stories of living through the loss of a loved one to COVID, he created an eminently relatable vehicle for his audience to find communion and catharsis in mourning and remembering those we lost in this pandemic," explained Chu. "Will gave a 'soft' debut of two of the songs in one of my studio performance classes, and in the stark way in which he used silences to evoke alienation, he reduced the entire class to tears. That was when I realized how powerfully and authentically his music spoke to our need for healing, with vehicles of such topical immediacy as Will′s cycle."

Howitt derived the narrative and lyrics from a series of interviews with his immediate family, which were played throughout the show. These clips were designed and placed by Howitt, and were played by house managers Abigail Sherman '22 and Eamon Bonner '25. Heart-wrenching apexes of the performance were highlighted through careful shifts in lighting, which were orchestrated by co-technical designers Tryston Morgan '23 and Josiah Curet-Denny '24.

Howitt continued, "Keeping things simple in terms of staging and lighting was extraordinarily helpful in making sure the process went smoothly. These decisions still felt truthful, but didn't overcomplicate the emotions we were trying to convey."

All in all, it was clear from the emotion filling the room at the close of the show that audience members, whether involved in the process or not, felt an immense sense of enthusiasm, pride and hope for the future of music composition and performance programs at Muhlenberg.

"I'm so grateful to have been a part of something that resonated with people so strongly. The show is relevant due to COVID-19, but goes further in exploring the grieving process, how we move on, and the value of someone's memory when they're no longer with us. I also loved the music Will wrote for this too, because it's not always predictable and the story flowed nicely. Meeting the person I got to portray was also a first for me," said Joe Grisanzio '23, a singer in the company.

"I think it's mainly about giving over to the interpretations and perspectives of the people you work with. Accepting both feedback and contrasting opinions from your colleagues is what makes a better show," explained Howitt. "I may have written the music and lyrics, but it's the humanity and personality that the singers brought to the work that instills it with life."

A high-quality recording of the show will be available to stream for free on Muhlenberg's website at the end of March.

From **Poetunity** page 5

to the community of Muhlenberg.

McDowdell said, "I chose my piece, 'Description,' once I heard the theme because I wanted people to take a peak into what it's like living in an African American man's shoes, coming up in this world with police discrimination against African Americans at its highest."

When Mustafa Hall '23 heard about this year's theme, he said, "I chose my piece (which was centered around my relationship with my voice) by asking myself, 'What do I emotionally need to release from my body?' And a poem about my voice was created. This space gave me the opportunity to heal and understand past trauma and I′m very grateful for it."

Rebekah Ayre '24 performed two original poems and added, "I chose my pieces because they are my most recent poems that actively process my lived experience. I think that in particular the process of healing physically and emotionally is so foundational to who I am, so I wanted my performance to reflect that. Overall, I′m so glad I participated in this Poetunity! It made me feel so grounded in myself and it′s definitely something I plan to do again."

Audience members expressed how much they enjoyed the event. Margaret Silbaugh '23 stated, "I think the event was fantastic. Richeta did a wonderful job of keeping the energy up, and the performances were all great!" She added,"I was particularly moved by Keanna [Peña '25]'s tender poem about friendship love and Oy [Adebajo '23]'s rap about her intersectional identity! I also loved Maria [Rivera '23]'s 'Letter to my Younger Self' poem in which they talked about body image and learning to love yourself when there are forces telling you you aren't worthy."

Audience member Kailee Joseph '25 said, "I think the event was a complete success. I really like how Richeta made such a diverse line up for the show. Everyone left a piece of themselves on the stage. I really love how this Poetunity created a safe space for all types of people and how everyone felt free to express themselves."

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg (*she/her*)
Staff Writer

Hi, besties! Welcome back to this week's edition of Paige's Page! I have been told by many of you, my lovely readers, that these last few editions have been a little on the sad side. Sorry, I was in a weird mood, but it's sunny now! I'm sure you all know what that means... HAPPY PAIGE! This week we are having fun, spring break starts so soon and I could not be more excited to have a break! For this week there is no theme. I am answering some questions that I think are super fun and I hope you enjoy reading them. Let′s get into it!

Q **Hey, Paige! Where can I get cute little party tops without spending a pretty penny?**

Hi, bestie! You must know, the way to my heart is fashion! I love this question because it is so hard especially if you are picky like I am. My favorite place to get cute tops is Garage. Without question, they have the best stuff and they have a chokehold on my bank account. They can be pretty expensive but their sale section is always super discounted and if you do their rewards program, they send you coupons. I also love H&M. They have a great student discount, and they have so many cute things. I think another obvious one is Forever 21, which is so cheap but their stuff can be hit or miss. I also thrift a lot of my going out tops. I love thrifting and it is more sustainable than shopping from big corporations. There is no ethical consumption under capitalism, however, we can do our best to limit our shopping at large corporations that have unethical practices.

Q **Hi Paige, I feel like once I′ve talked to 3 people on this campus there′s nobody left since their friends become off-limits and this school is so small. HELP!**

Hey, bestie. I don't think a lot of people are going to like this answer but I am going to say it anyway because it needs to be said. Their friends are not off-limits. There are millions of fish in the sea, but there are less than 2000 people at Muhlenberg College and even fewer people to choose from based on preferences, etc. If you date their friends, they can't make you off-limits to their friends if they didn't want you to begin with, or you just didn't click with them. Life is all about trying new things until they work for you, and just because things didn't work out with one person who you thought was great doesn't mean their best friend isn't also cool, or their teammate, the person they are working on a group project with, their suitemate, their frat brother or sorority sister. College is short. It is four years that you get to learn about yourself, what you like, and what you don't before you go into the real world. Don't stress too much about how one person is going to feel about your dating life because that is no one's issue but your own. Have fun, who cares.

Q **Hi Paige! I know you are a gluten-free gal, what are your favorite GQ foods? I want to try some new things!**

Hey, bestie! This is a fantastic question! I don't like trying new things pretty much ever so I have only a few go-to items. I also don't eat meat so the list is short but so fun. Okay so, my favorite GQ meal by far is the one and only breakfast bowl. It is everything anyone could want and more. I personally am not a tater tots person so I get it with fries. It's a GAME CHANGER. I also have been getting it with avocado recently, and it′s perfection. You may also see me in GQ with a container of everything but the bagel seasoning and red pepper flakes, which I put on my breakfast bowl, and it is the best thing literally ever. Another favorite (that apparently not a lot of people know about) is the veggie and rice bowl. It's so filling, and you get all of your food groups in there and you should also add avocado to it, it′s wonderful. This last recommendation is not from GQ, but you can get it with your dining dollars, so I am promoting it to all of you. The matcha chocolate donuts from Java are new and my new favorite thing. I wanted to gatekeep them but alas, here you go, enjoy. Also, a fun piece of information that I learned recently: if you are allergic to gluten or you have celiac like me, stop using paper straws! There is gluten in the glue that holds the straw together. Stay safe out there besties!

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio: @paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree @bergweekly.

Listen Loudly

...

A creative space for marginalized voices

My throat is sore

By Mustafa Hall (*he/him*)
Op/Ed editor

Like spilled black ink slowly
stretching along white fabric,
producing new shapes, cities, and worlds,
my voice (the very tone)
has never remained still.

I grew up learning how to add brick,
and marble to the

in·to·
na·tion

of my voice.

I learned how to take my vocal cords
and the sound I expel and manually
contort them with my hands
into images of who I was expected to be.

This was my ultimate form of survival.

My voice isn′t whole sounding
but rather has existed with cavities (hollowed fully)
done by
the fires and heat of outward desires.

I seek to add
yellow and
pink and red to the hidden
alcoves of my throat
while wrapping my speech
in velvet

For too long,
I've been
splitting my voice to try and exist
in two
separate
galaxies.

Little did I know,
I was painlessly being stabbed
and pierced by
pieces of cracked jubilation.

Not Your N.B.C.

By Oyinkan Adebajo (*she/they*)
Contributing Writer

This is the part where I define me,
Brit-Naija-American, Black trinity,
To all with their own labels to assign me,
I reject your constrained hypothesis

I give myself my own labels that pertain to,
All the different ways I am human,
These are the things that make me who am,
All the things you can't understand,

And I promise you,
I promise,
Thought you do not believe,
That I am not your N.B.C.
Yeah, I promise you,
I promise,
Though you shake,
And bereave,
That I am NOT your N.B.C.

I am Black which makes me atypical,
Black gal, which makes me quite typical,
Not your homie, your ratchet, your gangster,
your good one,
Just a Naija trying to live my life here

See **Not Your** page 9

drifting/

By Des Suarez (*she/they*)
Staff Writer

i am temporary

my moments of cheek splitting laughter where my teeth feel like sun lit beams shooting out of my perpetually open mouth and

my spatters of gut twisting hesitation and frantic fingers scratching at the back of my neck all appear to me in my dreams

they are but ten seconds in an eight hour sleep cycle

behind my minds eye is a circulation of a million different realities in the span of one 3 hour lecture period

i feel like a meteor
drifting in the troposphere, looking for an unsuspecting planet to crash into

rooted to two unsteady moons for feet

too small for my huge terrin trapped skull that concave and send me into another solar system

But i always seem to float

im a drifter, floating between homes looking for a space to lose myself in

between homes that i imagine as my own,
everything is temporary

never caught, never pulled into the orbit of another being, always drifting, always wondering
why why why
Can't i stay still?
There is something about the moons that draw my wandering eye to their deep shadowed craters

I understand what it′s like to hide from the light, and to hope that someone cares enough to peer

Up into a dimmed sky

From **Not Your** page 8

Not Black enough nor
White enough for you,
But I know Black folks
Who dig anime, too,
I ain't special, but I'm
brilliant undoubtedly,
Ain't gonna take your white supremacist bs, ya see

Swagger of Tupac,
brains of Malcolm X,
Strength of Audre Lorde,
Bravado of Lil Nas X,

I got the Blackest behind me,
The Blackest within me
The Blackest in front, diagonal, and all around me,

Try and test me,
Go ahead,
I dare ya,
Test this Blackacademic's based memorabilia

Naw, you jealous
Of my attitude,
Craving my Black
Swagitude,
Go home to your suburb and snivel, yeah

That's why I promise you,
I promise,
Thought you do not believe,
That I am not your N.B.C.

Yeah, I promise you,
I promise,
Though you shake,
And you grieve,
That I am NOT your N.B.C.

I'm not your side chick, baby mama, or hoe-down,
Not your virgin, nor your slut, though I get down,
I'm phenomenally genderflux,
Yeah that's me,
Phenomenally woman,
Phenomenally NB,

I defy the boxes that you put on me,
Misogynistic Black and white dichotomy
Call me wild, call me hood, call me bad, call me good,
But Imma call me the things that I know to be
Not super feminine,
And not super masculine,
But into dresses, Barbies
Legos, and paintballing
You got a problem with my shoulders,
Got a problem with my waist?
I got a problem with your attitude,
Get with it,

As a queer fat Black
Who's disabled
Gender's guarded from me
Like a stable

But I don't mind it,
I'm willing and I'm able,
To take it back
And make a new label

But don't get it twisted,
I don't tolerate slander
Or fools who wanna slur
And take a gander

You're just boxing me up,
And boxing me in,
And I won't take it,
Won't obey it, no, never

That's why I promise you,
I promise,
Thought you do not believe,
That I am not your N.B.C.

Yeah, I promise you,
I promise,
Though you weep,
And you grieve,
That I am NOT your N.B.C.

I'm disabled,
That's it,
Nothing else

I ain't special,
Handicapped,
Er something else

If it makes you un-comfy,
Then you can't hang with me,
Bye-bye, move on to someone else

Just cause I look like I can run a marathon,
It don't mean that I should run a marathon,
Imma wheel like Ali Stroker,
Go figure, you don't know her,
Let's use Harriet Tubman instead

I'll lead you to freedom,
Just give me a break,
Can't do more than what I'm willing to take,
But, I'm capable of whatever you're asking,
Disability made me good at multi-tasking,

I get the scooter when my feet are killing me
Get the surgery whenever it need be,
Get the therapy, even though it ain't free,
Say it loud,
I'm disabled and proud

And I promise you,
I promise,
Thought you do not believe,
That I am not your N.B.C.

Yeah, I promise you,
I promise,
Though you sob,
And you grieve,
That I am NOT your N.B.C.

I'm not your
Dis/Abled
Not your
Wo/Man
Not your
Black, well you can't really divide it, but you get it!
Not your
Ab/Normal
Not your
Bi/Sexual
Not your, white dominant in an alternate cover

And it frustrates me,
Yeah it really gets me,
There's a whole periodic table of the things I could be,
But screw norms, standards, and chemistry, for I am NOT your N.B.C.

And I promise you,
I promise,
Thought you do not believe,
That I am not your Nipple Bigger Critch

Yeah, I promise you,
I promise,
Though you sob,
And you grieve,
That I am NOT your N.B.C.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

From **DEI** page 1

Our objective is to be, not a buffer, but a student resource first before we take it to Miss Robin."

While many members of the community touted the successes of the report, they also acknowledged that the College has blind spots. Vick said, "I think that where a lot of the disability focus has been a collaboration between Disability Services, the Dean of Students office, and the Dean of Academic Life working through policy to increase accessibility… It tends to be more of an accessibility question that can sometimes get separated from DEI work in a way that I think really doesn't serve our broader goals."

Oyinkansola Adebajo '23 expressed a similar sentiment, saying, "I think they're at least attempting but there's definitely room for improvement, especially in terms of disability… there's a lack of understanding surrounding disability. That's the biggest hole. And I'm saying that as someone who has multiple intersectional identities. I think the way the CARE Team handles students has not been the best. As someone who did go to a CARE Team meeting, it has been fraught with non-inclusive language."

"It might feel a little better for all students of marginalized identities, and all faculty and staff of marginalized identities, to have a space to offer their input."

Kucik and Elena FitzPatrick Sifford, associate professor of art history, both praised Vick for her efforts in furthering DEI at Muhlenberg and expressed their support for the creation of additional roles that support DEI at the College and for continued hires of people from diverse backgrounds in faculty, staff and administration positions. FitzPatrick Sifford also noted that another area for development is increased communication between students and the institution so that students have more transparency about the nuances and the processes behind DEI work. She said, "I don't think a lot of students realize how these things work. Who holds power in the institution? I don't mean to say that to belittle students. I just think it's not transparent, sometimes, for students to know how these things operate."

Vick said, "I think that we have some more work to do in terms of education, particularly in intersectionality, and helping our community to understand the ways in which none of us really live any individual identity, but that we live them at the intersections and what does that mean for supporting one another."

Intersectionality wasn't the only area for improvement that community members pointed out. FitzPatrick Sifford said, "I wish that there was more transparency about, what's the reality of Muhlenberg College? How many faculty of color do we actually have? How many Black people in this institution have ever gotten tenure?"

This critique of communication and transparency was echoed by Zaire Carter '22, Student Government Association (SGA) president, "Dr. Vick is doing a lot of good work as chair of PDAC [President's Diversity Advisory Council], and when I worked with her when I was on SGA on PDAC, the work that that committee was doing was quite significant. I do think they still need to work on communicating their efforts to the student body. We have all of these sort of plans and initiatives and strategies that we're employing, but none of it really matters if students don't feel the effect of them."

Aevyn Barnett '22, president of Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAd), added, "I think that taking a lot of good steps in the right direction, I think there are still a lot of areas that can improve. I think one of the issues is that a lot of times, groups that are in the public view, so colleges, businesses, whatever, there's a performative element to it, they have to appear as if they're dreaming. So they do a lot of things that look really good on paper and look really good in writing that might not necessarily be as effective in reality."

As an effort to bring more transparency to the College, community conversations about the DEI Report were held on Wednesday, Mar. 2 and Friday, Mar. 4, 2022. Discussions with faculty and students brought up issues of wishing to hear more about disability on campus, how to get alumni involved in DEI efforts and more initiatives around diversity of faith.

After the Mar. 4 conversation, Leslie Avecillas '23, president of the Emerging Leaders Council and president of Comunidad, said, "I wish that these conversations would happen with more of a purpose besides just informing us and more of a purpose of listening and taking suggestions, because there was a very small portion of the entire hour talk focused on that. A lot of times we do know what types of diversity initiatives are being held. I don't think that we don't know. I just think maybe it might feel a little better for all students of marginalized identities, and all faculty and staff of marginalized identities, to have a space to offer their input."

When asked how we can all learn without harming those of marginalized identities, Vick emphasized, "There's got to be a balance between offering grace and understanding for mistakes, and being accountable for the impact that we have on other people. And something can be an honest mistake. And we want to be able to create space for education, for learning, for growth, so that we don't make those mistakes again."

From **Masking** page 2

phase," Sarah O'Sullivan '22 told The Weekly. "Personally I just had COVID-19 so I know how fast it is still spreading. So it's a little bit intimidating but of course I'm happy to see my peers' faces again and hoping for the best."

"I'm certainly surprised considering the quickness of it all," Olivia Thiemann '24 echoed. "I think going from orange to yellow and still very much highly recommending the KN95 masks to going to optional masking is definitely surprising. I trust the school and their knowledge and their ability to keep track of the country's COVID regulations. I'm hoping that this will be beneficial in every way possible. But I'm certainly expecting very mixed reactions from the student body and faculty."

Reactions have certainly been mixed. "I'd love to be in a place where I'm comfortable being unmasked in class, but I simply don't think that we're there yet," Cailyn Murray '23 commented. "No matter what the school says, I will always feel a pang of fear and distress when I see a person walking around inside without a mask properly on their face." This hesitation seems to have taken hold of a fair amount of the student body, especially in the wake of such a speedy change.

Oyinkansola Adebajo '23, president of Muhlenberg Disability Advocacy Group (MDAG), said, "[This policy] feels rushed. I'm afraid that it leaves many disabled students behind, in an almost forgetful sense. However, I did talk to the dean [of students] about it and she was fairly understanding, mentioning Zoom classes and free masks and tests as options."

Zaire Carter '22 said, "I've heard that most students are confused about why we didn't wait until after break. I think those thoughts are completely valid. That was my thinking as well. At the end of the day, I don't want anyone feeling targeted because they are or aren't wearing a mask. If we're figuring out this mask optional world, we need to do it as a community and we need to do it together."

However, for others, this milestone indicates a positive step toward an exciting return to some degree of pre-pandemic normalcy. "I would like to take my mask off in classroom settings. For me, it is all about making the people around me feel comfortable, so if I get the sense that others around me would prefer to keep masks on then I will comply with that," Rebekka Broyles '22 said. "That said, I do hope Muhlenberg goes back to maskless learning one day. I think there is still a slight disconnect when people wear masks, a subtle understanding that it is okay to talk but not to get too close. I also feel that one's identity is both physically and emotionally lost when the bottom of their face is covered."

In the end, it seems to boil down to compassion and consideration for our college community. As Piper Ackerman '23 stated, "As Muhlenberg's COVID policies change, it's important that everyone does what makes them feel the safest and respects what makes others feel safe."

Women's lax off to a hot start

Photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Athletics Department

Nicole Steiner '24 blocking her opponent.

By Rylan DeStefano
Staff Writer

On Mar. 5, women's lacrosse faced off against Goucher College. The Mules have been working hard to start their season off as strong as they can, with the help of their coaches.

Nicole Steiner '24 scored five goals, scoring three goals with the help of her teammates, one by driving to the goal and the other by a free possession shot. Steiner believes that the goals that are assisted by her teammates are more rewarding than scoring on her own. "It feels great scoring goals and helping the team win. The goals that result from passes from my teammates are the best because it

See **Lax** page 11

From **Lax** page 10

shows teamwork and the connection that we work on in practice," she said.

Emily Vaughan '25, also commended the team's early success, "We started the season off strong, dominating in our first three games. We work hard each day at practice so that we are ready for conference play. I was very excited to score my first career goal! The team was very happy for me and they have made the transition from basketball to lacrosse very smooth and easy. My basketball fitness and skills have definitely help on the lacrosse field. I felt in shape going into lacrosse season and was about to jump into practice without skipping a beat from the fitness standpoint."

The close-knit bond of the team is extremely prevalent, as their determination and motivation help fuel the entire team as a whole. Steiner describes that the team "[has] a very close team with great leadership from our captains and upper classmen. We work really hard in practice and it had showed on the field during the games so far this year."

Steiner also credits the coaches, which is seen to be another beneficial aspect as to why the season has started off so strong. "Our coaches are amazing. They prepare us so well for the games. Like I mentioned, our practices are hard but really fun also because of our coaches. Our coaches give us many different plays that we are able to work off of to help us in times where we need it the most."

The team seems to be headed to even more success, as they, as well as the coaches, have been putting in immense amounts of effort in order to excel throughout the season. "One big reason for our success so far is because our team really cares about each other. Everyone is supportive and we all work together for a common goal, doing our best on the field." The bond within the team couldn't be more evident on and off the field. The team continues to work towards improving their winning streak, this will continue after the break. "Our teamwork has gotten better from the start of the season. As the season continues, we will all get to know each other's strengths even better and we will continue to gel as [a] team. We understand that the Centennial [Conference] is one of the top DIII conferences. When we get back from spring break we begin the conference schedule. We play against some traditionally great teams and it should be a great challenge for our team" said Steiner.

Individually, Steiner plans on training to benefit the team, saying, "My goal by the end of the season is to become the best player I can be to help our team win. If that means scoring goals or assisting my teammates to score goals or just work hard on the field, whatever it takes, I will do it."

The Mules will travel down to Hilton Head, S.C., to play during the spring break, Mar. 15 and Mar. 16, when they face off against Framingham State and Mount Aloysius.

All records and statistics are up to date as of 3/8/22.

Hitting and pitching with gas

Mules steamroll Albright College to maintain their undefeated 4-0 record.

By Josh Botel
Staff Writer

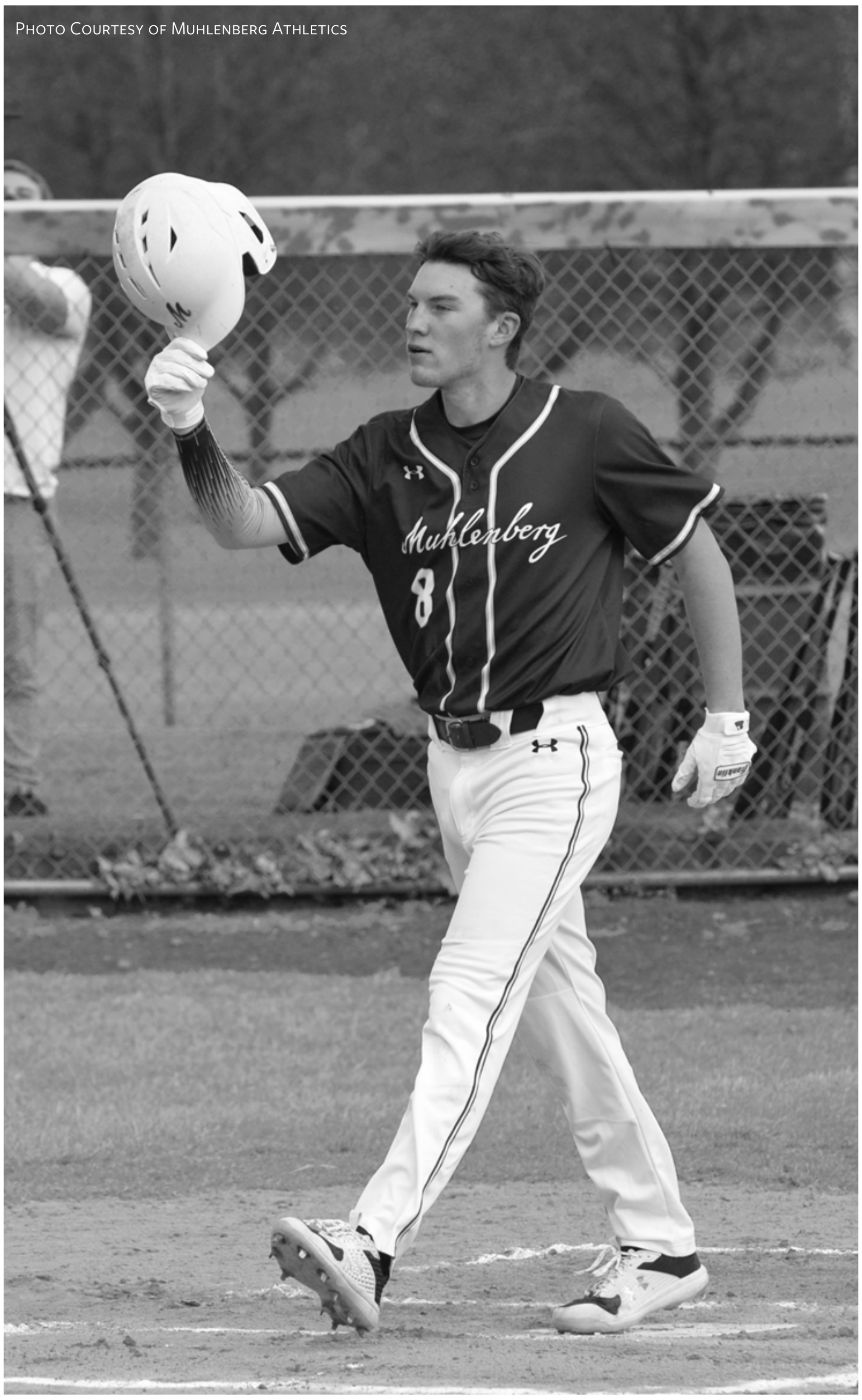

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Jonathan Toth '24 crosses home after hitting a bomb.

The Muhlenberg baseball team played a doubleheader this Saturday, Mar. 5, at Albright College. The Mules ere meant to play four games within a span of five days, but the games against Lebanon Valley College and Eastern University have been postponed until further notice. In the first double-header game, the Mules dominated with a 13-1 victory. They had an impressive pitching performance by Quinn Rovner '23 who pitched six innings, allowing only three hits and striking out seven batters. This earned him the honor of Centennial Conference Pitcher of The Week.

Christian Schwarz '23, in the previous game against Gallaudet University, tied the school record for most in-game doubles- three. Schwarz continued his success starting the game off with a double that batted in leadoff hitter Jack Kent '24 to open the scoring for the Mules, while sending Ryan Herbert '22 to third. The first and third innings are when the Mules did most of their damage. Jake Swerdloff '23 hit a three run home run in the first inning to make it a 4-0 ball game. Then, in the same inning, Jonathan Toth '24 hit a solo shot to make it a 5-0 ball game. In the third inning, the Mules only got two hits but were able to draw four walks and get four runs in.

In the second game, the Mules continued to dominate with an 8-3 victory in the second part of the doubleheader against Albright. Albright jumped out to a 3-0 lead with two runs in the fourth inning and one run in the fifth. In the sixth, Toth came up big once again and opened the scoring with an RBI single with Swerdloff scoring. Later in that inning, Brendan Bussiere '25 hit a two run RBI triple to tie the game at 3-3. The Mules would later take a 5-3 lead with Toth coming to the plate again with two runners on base. He then hit another home run to finish his huge day at the plate, scoring three more runs and bringing the runners home to make it a 8-3 ball game.

Toth went four for six this weekend with a walk, five RBI's, five runs scored, two of which were home runs. Toth talked about how he feels about his big weekend at the plate, "I feel amazing. When I came up to bat, my main goal was just getting to the next person in the order to keep the inning alive. It feels great knowing that I was not only able to do this, but I was able to come up big in a clutch spot for the benefit of the team. And on top of that, it feels even better knowing that I helped the team improve to 5-0."

Coach Tod Gross, head coach of the team, talked about how thrilled he is with the team's performance so far this season. "I think our guys have done a really good job of coming to practice every day and working hard to try and get a little better each day. It is not easy coming to practice each day in February and practicing in the field house. Our team has done a great job of staying focused each and every day."

He strategized that to continue winning games the team would have to continue with their 0-0 mindset. He explains that, "Our guys have been doing a good job so far of treating each game like it is a single game season. Each game we are trying to go into it like we are 0-0 and our goal is to be 1-0 after that day or after that game and then preparing for the next one like we are 0-0."

First baseman Swerdloff echoed his coach, "We try to enjoy each win that day, but by the next day move past it and build on it, treating each day like we're 0-0. We are happy where we're at right now, but know there's still plenty of work to be done to get better because we are yet to play our best baseball," he said.

This seems to be a recipe for success, to think of every game as your first and a must-win. The team has really come together and tried during every practice and game to make sure they win every game.

The team looks to continue their success as they travel to Davenport, Fl. for the Central Florida Invitational, an annual spring break baseball tournament that hosts over 250 division I, II, and III teams. The Mules will play a doubleheader against DIII teams Utica University, St. Lawrence University and Middlebury College and games against Clarkson University and Beloit College. Their first game there will be against Utica University, who has played two games so far this season. They won both games so far this year in dominating fashion with 14-1 victory and a 17-1 victory. Swerdloff wants the Mules to continue their success during this time. "As a team, we are going to use this momentum as motivation in practice this week to continue working hard to prepare for upcoming opponents like Utica and St. Lawrence."

Tennis heads into spring break

Off two straight losses, both tennis teams maintain positive energy and look to correct their mistakes.

By Alex Blum
Managing Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

The tennis team fistbumping.

In their final outing prior to the spring break, on Mar. 1 and 2 respectively, both the women's and men's tennis teams faced heartbreaking defeats against the Moravian University Greyhounds. With both teams facing a two match losing streak, bringing the men's overall record to 0-4 and the women's to 2-2, the groups are looking to collect themselves and come back swinging after the much-needed break.

Caroline Maglaras '23, who will be spending her spring break with friends and family, is also planning to continuously work on her game and build up her strength. "[It's] going to be a productive week of working on my tennis, lifting and working out. Just doing everything I can to continually prepare my body so it is in full force for the season," she said.

As one of the leaders on a young Mules' team, along with an entirely new coaching staff, Maglaras understands that there will be some bumps on the road through this period of transition. In her view, despite heading into the break on a losing streak, consistency and trust remain the team's core tenets.

"It has been quite the transition, but I am trusting the process, as I think we all are. I believe consistency is key and in order to execute desired results, we need to believe in ourselves and believe in the preparation we put in from day one," Maglaras said.

On the men's side, Daniel Kantor '22 is taking his team's 0-4 start in stride and is optimistic about the outlook for his group for the rest of the season. "Yeah being 0-4 is unfortunate, especially considering how well we performed the past few years... However we definitely have a great attitude, taking it match by match and we definitely feel like there are matches on our schedule that are winnable," he said.

Maintaining a high level of morale, even in the face of defeat, extends to the women's team as well. Maglaras described the attitude around the women's locker room saying, "The attitude of the team is stronger than ever."

Looking to return from break and emerge from the team's rut, Kantor is keenly aware of the areas that his team needs to improve upon. According to him, improvement for such a young team comes with exposure to serious competition. "In addition to the technical and tactical work we are doing in practice, a lot of the guys just need more match experience," he said.

Experience is invaluable, but equally important is showcasing support and love for fellow teammates as you watch from the sidelines. This is a facet of the game that Maglaras recognizes as needing improvement, and has been an important talking point amongst the team.

"One of the biggest things we have talked a lot about is cheering for one another. This builds the team momentum needed for matches and when we have good energy, collectively we will be in a better position for the results we want," she said.

While both teams are highly motivated to make adjustments, the spring season thus far has revealed a lot about the team's strengths. Regardless of their recent finish, Maglaras sees the team's broader understanding of the game to be a fundamental strong suit. "The strength we have as a team is understanding when to focus on the minute details and when to focus on the big picture," she said.

And the team's effort on the court, in the gym and their willingness to grow has taken the notice of and has impressed Head Coach David DeLasCasas Kurvink. "I have been impressed with how hard the teams have been working to get better and bonding as a team," he said.

With the teams poised for a rebuild this year, following the graduation of a handful of seniors, DeLasCasas Kurvink and his staff's message heading into spring break has been one of trust. "Trusting the process is probably the most important message. We need to trust the work we are doing and shift the mindset to mirror that," Maglaras said.

Similarly, the message from the staff to Kantor and the men's side has been focused on trust, steady improvement and patience. "We can't let the early losses get to us. We're constantly improving and have a lot of matches ahead to prove ourselves," Kantor said.

Taking this positive attitude into the break, both sides are anxiously awaiting their return to the court and are excited about more competition.

As Kantor is looking forward to concluding his senior year with some deserving wins, Maglaras also looks to see the team's hard work and cohesion return results. "I am excited [for]... the hard work put in year round to translate to the court. I am also looking forward to the continued relationships made on the team and the bonds formed as the season progresses," Maglaras said.

Both teams will return to their newly finished home at the Kern Field Courts, on Mar. 24 and 25, against Penn State University- Berks.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Mar. 10 - Mar. 17

Softball
Muhlenberg
vs
Pfeiffer
Sat, Mar. 12 @ 10:00 a.m.
Virginia Beach, Va.

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg
vs
Kean
Sat, Mar. 12 @ 12:00 p.m.
Sparks, Md.

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Juinata
Sun, Mar. 13 @ 10:00 a.m.
Virginia Beach, Va.

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Utica
Sun, Mar. 13 @ 2:30 p.m.
Davenport, Fla.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Flip the issue to read the special April fools edition!

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Benjamin Wilfond '81 scheduled to speak at 'Berg's 174th Graduation Ceremony

Wilfond and Director Karen El-Chaar scheduled to receive an honorary degree at the Commencement.

By Matthew Baresh
Asst. News Editor

On May 22, the PPL Center in downtown Allentown is set to hold Muhlenberg's 174th Commencement Ceremony. The event will feature multiple guest speakers to help celebrate the class of 2022 and their accomplishments. Two guest speakers in particular will be sharing a speech with best wishes for the graduating class: bioethicist and physician Benjamin Wilfond '81 and Karen El-Chaar of the Allentown Parks Department.

Wilfond graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1981 with a double major in philosophy and biology. He continued his academic career at Rutgers University where he received his medical degree, followed by his attendance at the University of Wisconsin for residency in the field of pediatrics. Wilfond finished with a fellowship in pediatric pulmonology and medical ethics.

Following his years of study, Wilfond became very involved in the Washington area. He became an investigator at the Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics and a pulmonologist at Seattle Children's Hospital in Washington. He also currently stands as a professor of bioethics and palliative care at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Outside of Wilfond's involvement in an occupational sense, he explored the ethical issues surrounding genetics and disabilities as shown through his scholarships and extensive research in these areas. He is also the author and co-author of over 250 papers covering a variety of topics and research disciplines. Wilfond continued his interest in scholarships with new studies in providing more access for medical technologies in diverse communities across the U.S..

Paired with Wilfond, El-Chaar will be the recipient of an honorary degree in addition to the opportunity to give a welcoming speech to the graduates and the audience, in-person and online alike.

El-Chaar graduated from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania with a double major in German and science in secondary education. She continued her academic studies at Wilkes University for her master's degree in business administration in addition to a juris doctor certificate from the Temple University School of Law.

She spent eight years as the director for the nonprofit Friends of Allentown Parks where she became heavily involved in the fundraising efforts to better the organization. She has also attended multiple biology and environmental classes at Muhlenberg College where she educated the students on the natural aspects of the surrounding area.

El-Chaar is currently a director of the Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation, serving for the entirety of Allentown's parks amounting to 2,000 acres of land.

These two educated and experienced guest speakers are expected to enhance the ambiance of the commencement ceremony to celebrate the class of 2022 and to send them off for their future endeavors.

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Benjamin Wilfond '81 (left) and Karen El-Chaar (right).

NEWS

Shining a spotlight on Muhlenberg's financial aid policies.

read more on 2

ARTS & CULTURE

Assembly Festival performance touches audience with its stirring display of human emotion.

read more on 3

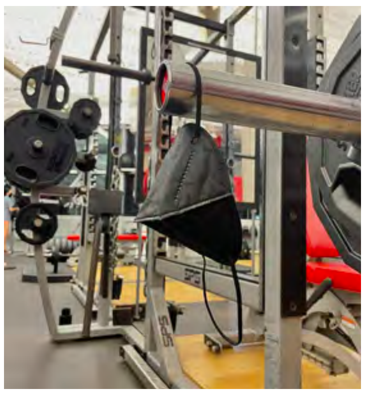
OP/ED

Shobha Pai '24 describes the commonly-felt, alienating experience at the gym.

read more on 9

SPORTS

New masking policies across campus - including the Life Sports Center.



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Rebecca Clark
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Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS
Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL
weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE
muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE
484-664-3195

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Financial aid loophole leaves some seniors scrambling for cash

Muhlenberg College's students risk losing financial aid if they finish their major too quickly.

By Sarah O'Sullivan
Staff Writer

Katie Behling '22 thought she was on track to graduate this spring semester, unaware that the registrar was expecting her to be done with her requirements this past fall. One day in October, her work study job asked if she would be returning in the spring, as they had not seen her listed for the next semester. She was shocked. She had assumed she would be working at her work study position for her final two semesters.

Behling is a media and communication major with minors in film and creative writing, and began taking the Honors Cumulative Undergraduate Experience (CUE) course for her major requirement in the fall. This is a year-long course, but on Workday it appeared to be only one semester, thus making it appear as though her major would be finished by the end of the fall semester. Regardless of her major requirements, she was still two classes short in finishing her film minor, and planned to take those in the spring as well. But because Workday indicated that her major requirements would be complete, the office of financial aid expected her to graduate in December and she would no longer receive federal financial aid for the spring. "The financial aid office basically told me that minors didn′t matter in terms of being a graduation requirement," explained Behling. "They said it doesn′t matter if you have classes left for a minor, you don′t need a minor to graduate."

"It was especially frustrating," Behling says, "because over the summer I had spoken with Greg Mitton, the director of financial aid, about another issue regarding my major declaration. We had solved that issue, but he never mentioned anything about an early graduation during those several conversations in August. There was no communication about it at all until mid-October when I found out from my boss."

Financial aid can be quite complex to navigate, which is troubling considering it can determine whether a student can afford a college education. At Muhlenberg, financial assistance is offered through merit scholarships, which can come from the school or outside parties and federal aid from the government often based on financial need. "Last year, Muhlenberg′s office of financial aid provided over $79 million in financial aid funds," explained Meg Ryan, vice president for enrollment management. "Of this approximately $13 million comes from the federal government, $64 million from Muhlenberg and the remaining from state governments or third parties like outside scholarships."

Muhlenberg College's financial aid office has been praised by sources such as the New York Times which referred to the college's guide "The Real Deal on Financial Aid" as "ought-to-be-mandatory-reading." The College, according to the article, "has decided that there is a virtue to just telling it like it is."

See **Financial** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive."
- Elbert Hubbard

Showcasing human emotion on the stage

The Assembly Festival continued with "A Feeling Of, Feeling For."

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

Photos courtesy of Scott Snyder

Celeste Samson '22 and Sidney Caruth '23 holding hands.

Human emotion is extremely vulnerable and to see it brought to life onstage can be both rewarding and challenging.

The first Assembly performance since spring break, "A Feeling Of, Feeling For," utilized human emotion to reward the actors and audience members alike. People were invited to hear these stories and experience these rituals of everyday life, loss, love and more. The piece was directed by Maereg Gebretekle '22 and the entire cast contributed to the development of the piece, since it was a devised production. This devised process can also be seen with a previous Assembly performance, "You are Cordially Invited."

The ensemble consisted of Sidney Caruth '23, Tomomi Lewis-Noguchi '24, Elizabeth Muriel '23, Desiree Oliver '25, Alexa Sage '24, Celeste Samson '23, Dondrea Wynter '24 and they shared in the human and emotional experience of loss and ritual.

Muriel mentioned, "'A Feeling Of' was genuinely one of the most pleasant devising experiences I have had in my theatrical experiences here! Maereg and our stage management team, SM Eden [Kaufman '23] and ASM Emma [Walter '24] were wonderful to work with and the rest of the cast was truly so talented and generous with their art. It was so much fun to create with them. Each member of the ensemble showcased their own story to stand out from the ensemble while continuing to be in conversation with one another."

The program highlighted, "As you watch these stories, please be mindful that they are not supposed to be in chronological order. You are witnessing snippets of the past that the ensemble members experienced in their lives."

The process of creating stories allowed for freedom from the performers and the ability to connect with others while being personal and honest.

"The cool thing about stuff like this is that people will take away whatever they need to from your art, so there's no point in needlessly oversharing. I focused on creating a story and it ended up coming together," Samson stated.

"Working on 'A Feeling Of, Feeling For' was an amazing experience," claimed Caruth.

"There was a safe space created where the ensemble was able to be vulnerable with one another and tell stories of a moment, or moments in our lives where we had experienced a form of loss. We were also able to discuss any rituals that we did in our daily lives and what that meant for us as well," continued Caruth.

The props were each representations of the distinct story and experience of each of the ensemble members. Beyond the representation of wonder with toys and plush animals, the props included a computer and a purple Squishmallow, but the constant prop was poppies.

"The red flowers were poppies, which represent different things to different cultures. In western cultures it symbolizes death and remembrance, and in eastern cultures it symbolizes love and success. The symbolism there for us as a cast was loss but also the growth that may come from loss," stated Muriel.

These poppies could be seen throughout the stage and also played a hand in the experience for each of the ensemble members in connecting each story. The shared experience was much more than just flowers as each of the seven stories ended with a poem that was adapted to represent each performer's identity.

"Our shared text (poem) was incorporated as a part of our collective ritual. Saying the poem, receiving a flower and releasing it into the well. The poem was chosen by Maereg. We all really liked it, and we were able to adapt it to our identities," stated Caruth.

The ending line of the shared poem was, "Come celebrate with me that everyday something tried to kill me and has failed."

The props were just one of the several technical elements of the piece that added to the experience of sharing these stories and in elevating these experiences. The Studio Theatre, Muhlenberg's black box, was adorned with white fabric draping from the gallery down to the stage.

Nico Bittker '22 brought Caruth's story, in addition to the rest of the ensemble, to life with those of lighting design.

Caruth mentioned, "Light in my story was powered by the bodies seen on stage and was affected by mood and movement. Everyone seen in my story was considered light. I was a yellow light, Celeste Samson'22 was a blue light, and when we came together for our meeting, we created green light which was then reflected again in my final prayer of thanks and appreciation."

These elements also helped to highlight the audience and involve their own stories as well. After each of the seven stories, the performer wrote on a piece of paper something they wanted to let go of. The paper was then dropped into a small well with real water.

"I hope audiences walked away from the piece seeing how much can come from loss and what can come from giving students a platform to create art that is meaningful to them together. Having such a diverse cast and such a safe space really made this piece special to me," stated Muriel.

Following the conclusion of the show, audience members were invited to let go of whatever they needed to. The wishing well was the most important element of the performance, allowing for everyone to let go of something they need to.

"The idea of expressing and then releasing loss as a collective was extremely powerful, and offering the same opportunity to the audience was so engaging," stated Gabi McCabe '24, an audience member.

The performance allowed for everyone to share loss and to connect with others while understanding their individual value.

"Even if they didn't relate to the specifics I hope people took away that they are deserving of patience and kindness no matter what stage of life they're at. Sometimes it takes people a little longer than they think it will to get where they're going, and there's no harm in that," declared Samson.

From **Financial** page 2

Despite this tell-it-like-it-is approach to financial aid, more students than usual have been in danger of losing their access to funding during their final semester. According to an email sent to faculty advisors, students are only eligible to receive federal financial aid while they are working on their degree, and as soon as they complete that work (they've taken 32 course units, completed their GARs and fulfilled their major requirements) they are no longer eligible for federal financial aid. When asked about the specific federal policy that affected Behling, Ryan notes that, "Historically, this has impacted a small handful of students—the overwhelming majority of whom were graduating early without intending to return for an additional semester. This past year, that number did increase slightly to impact six students."

"If a student is still in pursuit of their degree they would continue to be eligible for federal financial aid, which for some students can include their second major," said Ryan. This is not a college-specific policy, but one the College must comply with. Yet even for students in pursuit of their second major or one of their minors, they are still having to fight to stay for their final semester.

I faced the same issue as a dance and media and communication double major. In attempting to pay my spring tuition, I realized my spring financial aid was not listed on the portal on Workday. Since the financial aid was posted separately for each semester last year due to COVID, I did not think much of only seeing the fall listed. That is, until there were still no updates at the beginning of spring semester. When I emailed the financial aid office, I was met with a response that I must call Greg Mitton, who suggested I either take the one required course online from home, in spite of the fact that I was already back a week early for the spring semester for a week long intensive for a dance department show. He also explained that they have to apply to the federal government with the students who would be receiving this aid, and since they thought I would graduate in the fall, they had only applied for one semester of federal financial aid for me.

Like Behling and many other students, I would not be able to attend this school without financial aid. The average financial aid package, including student loans and student employment, for a traditional student is $35,606. This is over half of the tuition price at $58,005.00 (without room and board which differs depending on the location and meal plan). Losing any financial aid can be detrimental to many students at this school, especially when aid covers so much of tuition costs for the average student.

I was told by the financial aid department that I didn't qualify for federal aid for the spring because when they looked at my profile in the summer, I only had three classes left to finish all of my degree requirements and they figured I would graduate in December. But I ended up taking only two out of the three in the fall, saving the last class for the spring semester. It had been recommended to me by students and faculty alike to separate the CUE courses for dance and for media and communication, since both require a lot of work, so the only required course I was taking was the media and communication CUE. As a senior, I was also excited to take other classes I had been wanting to take throughout my time here, but had pushed off in order to complete my requirements.

Had I known there would be issues with finishing too quickly, I would've planned differently, but I assumed that because I still had a requirement to fulfill there would be no issues. Luckily I was still able to receive aid from Muhlenberg after this conversation, however I did lose some federal aid because of the lack of communication from the financial aid office.

"Muhlenberg College's institutional financial aid is available to students for up to eight semesters of undergraduate study even if they have met graduation requirements early," notes Ryan. "So for those students who fell into this category, they could continue to receive Muhlenberg's institutional financial aid, which includes merit scholarships and need-based grants, but would need to find other resources to make up any loss in federal financial aid. That includes their eligibility for federal work study, direct loans and federal Pell grants."

As a result of the policy that Ryan describes, I was able to gain back my Muhlenberg merit scholarships and grants, but I did lose both my federal aid and my work study position very suddenly, which will definitely have an impact on my future financial status as I had to take out larger private loans.

The most frustrating part was the lack of communication between the office and the students.

While Behling's issue was resolved in mid-October, Behling said she was shocked to hear a liberal arts school that had encouraged her exploration of different classes, and a school that prides themselves on the well-rounded education of their students, suggest she rush to graduate. "If this is the style that Muhlenberg wants to handle financial aid in the future, where they're almost urging students out, particularly students that receive a lot of financial aid from them, I would hope that they would tell students that are expecting an eight semester college experience that if they go too quickly through their programs of study, they might lose their financial aid," says Behling, "which is like ludicrous to say out loud."

Students should double check their financial aid portal and make a plan that allows them to keep their aid for their final semester (or consider graduating early). Ryan noted that since financial aid is often so individualized, any students with questions or any students who would like more information about their aid should speak with the financial aid office.

'Berg Hillel parties for Purim

By Faith Bugman
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of April Cunningham

Students dancing and celebrating Purim.

The Jewish holiday of Purim is a story about the tyrannical attempted persecution of the Jewish people by a Persian king's main chief Haman. Upon hearing about the upcoming attack on her people, the Jewish queen, Esther, would come to defend them. In a masterful move she invites the king and his chief to a series of dinner parties and (when the king is good and drunk) exposes the evilness of Haman, saving her people.

Purim is meant to celebrate her bravery, and insistence on doing what is right despite intimidating consequences. "It's sort of like the Jewish Halloween," explained Alexa Singman '22, "but the story is the most important part, especially when [you're] little." It combines a very inspirational moral with the enjoyableness of costumes, candy and family.

For the Purim celebrations, the Shabbat dining room at the Leffell Center for Jewish Student Life had been transformed into a classic school dance. The room was dark with neon lights and bright decorations with a photo backdrop in front of a large camera. The DJ played pop songs, flanked by tables full of bagel bites, candies, gift bags and yummy hamantaschen cookies, which established a sort of carnival atmosphere. Hillel Israel co-chair Eitan Gitlin '25 recommended party-goers try the mock pina colada (made with the DJ, Sam Brown '23), which he graciously poured into Solo Cups.

There were a couple of groups gathered on the dance floor, gleefully singing with the music, and one or two seated at the tables. Everyone seemed to be at ease, and there were no dark lonely corners. Most people mingled, asking about majors, midterms and end-of-March plans. Plenty of people were willing to talk about the holiday, and what it meant for them.

Singman, Danielle Azuolay '22, and Sarah Teitelbaum '22 – practically yelling to converse over the music– each described their personal experiences with Purim. They talked a lot about how it is a time to get dressed up (especially when you're little), enjoy sweet and savory pastries called hamantaschen and kreplach, and (when you're older, perhaps) get so drunk that the villian and hero in the Jewish story cannot be distinguished. Overall, Purim seems to be something special for every family and every person. It is a time to gather with the people you love, strengthen each other and celebrate the gift of life.

After the costume contestant winners were announced – Rachel Scheer '25, Hadas Seltzer '24, Ariana Handelman '25, Alyssa Kaplan '25, and Eli Coopersmith '23 – the student leaders began cleaning up their beautifully executed event. There were hugs, laughter, and over the noise, from a face among the crowd, proud sentiments about the success of the event for friends and leaders.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

The horrors of the gym

By Shobha Pai (*she/her*)
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The Life Sports Center in the evening

I walked towards the building at 8:10 on a Monday morning with my friend and at first sight it looked pretty normal. The red doors glistened with hope and optimism. The building stood tall and looked like other buildings on campus. The first set of doors were no obstacle but the second set is where the challenge began. You could hear the sounds and that gave me chills all over my body.

I said a silent prayer to myself and walked in with the fake confidence that I've learned to master when I walk in here. The fake confidence without which I would be an easy target. The sounds grew louder as I walked closer to the first site of dreadful activity and that's when I saw them. It was the jocks.

The sounds grew louder and now were easily distinguishable. The loud rap music, the clink-clank of the equipment being used and the vocalization of masculinity could be heard all through the building. The football team is in training in the weight room. Suddenly, I came into the rude realization that I don't belong here. The gym is not made for people like me.

It's not made for someone who doesn't fit in. Literally!

The sound of the equipment grew louder as I made my way to the second floor. The second floor is filled with equipment that strikes fear in the hearts of many. You have your ellipticals, treadmills and bikes. But you also have the dreaded stairmaster. This monstrosity features a notoriously tough cardio workout that features the endless loop of stairs.

Now you might be thinking "Wow, Shobha! You're exaggerating." But bestie, I'm not.

Think back to your time on social media. Have you ever seen a video that pokes fun at a fat person working out? You must have. There is a big subculture of the internet that loves making fun of fat people working out. And, this scares me.

I am very scared of being the girl in the gym that everyone laughs at in the gym that has no idea how to work the equipment. The very environment of the gym scares me.

When I said I don't fit in, I meant it.

The South is not a lost cause

By Aj Henley (*they/them*)
Contributing Writer

When I decided to go to college 800 miles from home, in a totally different region, I knew I would face some culture shocks. I could count on one hand the times it snowed back home in Georgia, and now I would need winter tires and a good coat and definitely more beanies. I was prepared for that. What I wasn't prepared for, however, was becoming a staunch defender of the South.

Growing up as a Black kid in the South, I never really held much love for it. We learned about the Civil War at least five separate times, and the association of the South with slavery can be pretty hard to break after that. I've also always had an interest in the Civil Rights Movement, and the most publicized events occurred in the South. I had negative associations and stereotypes about my own home, and they had been brewing for a very long time.

I thought I would be okay with hearing criticisms of the South. At first, I was. I joined in, even. The South has a lot of issues, and I enjoyed discussing some of them. But as time went on, and I heard more and more criticisms, I started to get a sour taste in my mouth. I began to feel protective, in an "Only I can make fun of my family" way. Most of the criticisms I was hearing were not specific to the South, ignoring the true root of the problem, or downright wrong. I think there's an idea of "the South" in many people's heads that misrepresents the true South, so I want to set some things straight.

The South is not some insanely racist cesspool. Or at least, it's not much more of an insanely racist cesspool than the rest of the United States. If I asked you to imagine a racist, you'd likely picture some redneck in Mississippi. The truth is there are racists everywhere in this country, and where you're from doesn't determine if you're racist or not. I would go as far to say the South doesn't even have a higher number of racists, it's just a different type of racism. (But that's a conversation for another day.)

The South is not full of backwards, outdated views. Yes, conservatives win most of our elections, but they don't win by a landslide the majority of the time. Democrats get votes and support. There are many progressives in the South, and Southern leftists are often some of the most committed to their work. Not only is the South much more progressive than most people know, there is a thriving community of progressives. When the South is stereotyped as being conservative, the work of thousands of activists is ignored.

The South does not deserve to be punished, regardless of the politicians being voted for. When bad things like natural disasters happen and politicians handle it poorly, I've heard a lot of, "Well, they voted for them, so that's what they get." As I mentioned before, there are many progressive constituents of conservative politicians that didn't vote for them, but this statement is wrong for more than just that. An entire region of people should not be punished for the political views of the majority, and the South deserves empathy.

There's many differences between regions in the U.S., but the South truly isn't that different or remarkable, at least not for the reasons people think. If you hate the South for the mosquitoes, that's fine by me. But don't hate it because of stereotypes and preconceived notions. If you've never been to the South, go! It's full of culture and has some pretty cool people. Check it out and form your own opinion on it, because the South is not a lost cause.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

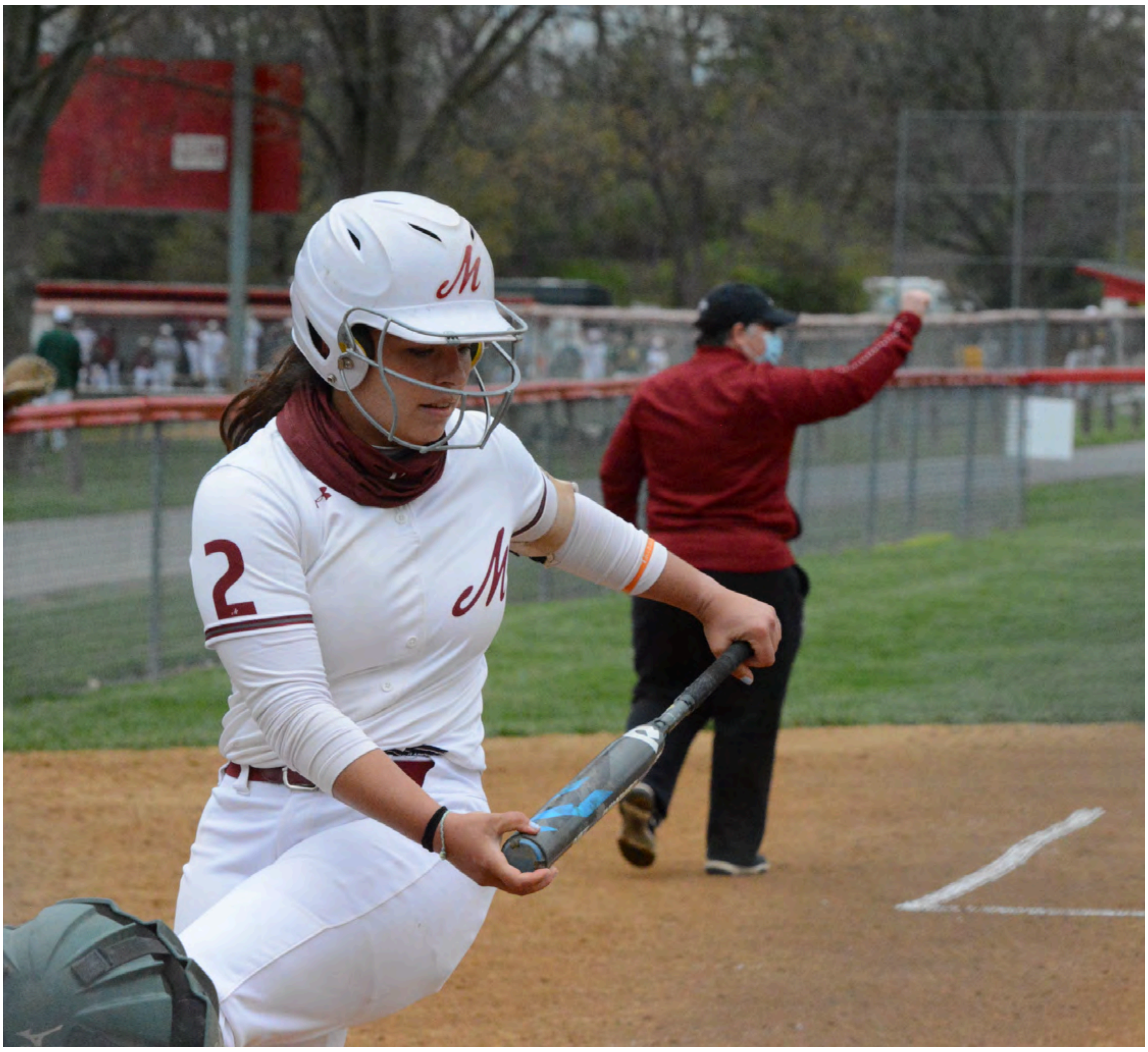
The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Soaking up the sun

With spring break in the books, players reflect on the trip.

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics



Sarah Karmazyn ’22 running to the plate.

While most people went home for the ten day spring break, the Muhlenberg baseball took a trip down to Florida for the Russmatt Central Florida Invitational while the softball team participated in the Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic in South Carolina and the Cross Bay Bash in Virginia. Beyond playing the sport they love, this trip allowed the players to bond with their friends and enjoy the good weather. “When on our spring trip we stay together in really nice houses in groups of seven to ten and have a ton of down time so we really grow together as friends. Being able to flush a loss by playing beach volleyball or hanging out in a hot tub was really beneficial,” said Ryan Hebert ‘22. “Every house had a pool and hot tub where most of the time was spent. It was friendly timing that Thursday was the start of March Madness, so a lot of nights were spent watching the games. The time spent in the airport and on the bus holds some of the best conversations and memories that I’ll always keep with me.”

The softball team also found ways to have fun in their free time. “Off the field, we were able to enjoy going to the aquarium, going out to dinners, going for walks on the beach, and just overall enjoy each other’s company,” said Sarah Karmazyn ‘22. For teammate Kristin Oberg ‘22, this was a much needed trip. “Since we didn′t have a spring break last year and this season our team is very young, this gave us a lot of time to get to know each other and make some great memories.”

The softball players also had a great time being with their friends and being in the southern weather. “This trip always helps bring us closer together. It allows us to have fun and live together all while playing the sport we love,” said Karmazyn. “As a team we are able to make jokes, connect with each other and create traditions that carry on through the season.” The spring break trip is a great way to build team chemistry both on and off the field and with each tournament taking place at the beginning of the season, allows the teams to prepare for the tough matchups that will be coming up.

While the teams had their fun off the field, they were still there to compete. The baseball team went 4-3 during the invitational and played some tough teams, but they always remained focused on each game at a time. “On the field, playing so many games in a seven-day period makes it easy to forget any tough games and focus on the next. Having a big win on Saturday and traveling home is always a great feeling,” said Hebert. “My favorite memory of the trip was definitely bouncing back from a tough loss on Friday with a big win against a good Middlebury team on Saturday.”

While there are always some tough losses, both teams pulled out some big wins which will prepare them for when conference play rolls around. The softball team also showed their resilience during their travels. After going 0-4 in the Cross Bay Bash, the softball team overcame those games and rattled off five wins in their last six games during the break, going 5-5 overall. Karmazyn and the team, however, this goes beyond just playing a game. “My favorite memory was just getting to play softball again,” she said. “Due to the past two years, it has shown all of us how grateful we are for everything around us and being able to finally have a full season again is just memorable in itself.”

These tournaments set the tone for the season. For the players, this trip puts into perspective what they are capable of when playing at their best. “Spring break didn’t change our goals for the season but it definitely reinforced our belief that we are a top team in the conference and if we play our game right, we should win a lot of games this year,” said Hebert.

Karmazyn feels the same way, saying, “I think we are going to have a great season this year. Our team is strong and gritty and full of depth, from the senior class to the freshmen,” she said. “We are so talented in many different ways and everyone brings something different to the table which makes this team so awesome. Based off of our results over spring break, I am really excited to start conference play because we have the capability to be successful and go far.”

Oberg feels this group has the potential to make some noise. “Over spring break we played three teams in the top five rankings in the country. While this was a challenge, it showed us how successful we can be in our conference and beyond. This season we have the most talent we′ve had in the last four years and with that we are looking to make a strong run for the conference title. Our team truly loves being on the field and competing everyday so I believe we can see a lot of success in our future.”

With conference play approaching, the teams will take the lessons and time spent together in Florida and Virginia and apply them for the rest of the season. After pulling out a 19-5 victory over New Jersey City University, the team looks to add to their 11-4 record at Moravian on Tuesday Mar. 29. The softball team will open up conference play with a double header Sunday at McDaniel College on Apr. 2.

The LSC—A new space

By Olivia Oberman
Staff Writer

The pandemic has created extensive physical separation between communities; however, as the Muhlenberg campus has patiently obliged to restrictions over the past two years, the community has actually come together in more ways than one.

Putting on a mask before starting a day's worth of tasks has become second nature. It has become a necessary step in our routines in order to cautiously navigate the pandemic, all while attempting to carry-out seemingly unpausable lives. Many students who started their college careers in 2020 had not walked through the dining hall, conversed with classmates, or worked out in the gym without wearing a mask until recently. While wearing a mask is not always a comfortable choice, it has been a simple action that has gotten us through the pandemic.

The College has taken every appropriate measure to best protect our community since the onset of the pandemic, making adjustments as necessary and consistently to their policies in order to align with the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Many members of the Muhlenberg community have learned that adhering to these restrictions are not only imperative for individual interests, but for the health and respect of others.

The CDC has recently updated its masking guidelines and introduced further tools to help aid individual decision making surrounding the pandemic. In response to this update by the CDC, the College has moved to a flexible indoor masking policy, made effective on Monday, Mar. 7, 2022. The policy allows students and staff to choose whether or not they wear a mask in specific campus spaces. Some of those spaces include the dining hall, Seegers Union, residence halls and the Life Sports Center (LSC). This policy update sparked both controversial and supporting views from the student body, faculty and staff. Some believe that the policy change was rushed. Others are happy about the update and are holding onto the policy change as a beam of hope.

In particular, the LSC is a popular place for the student population. Many students spend multiple hours a week there, and when in season, student athletes practically live in the facility. Athletes and non-athletes alike have gotten used to such things as running and working out with a mask on while in the LSC. Although it may be uncomfortable, it was just one way to sustain use of the gym while avoiding the transmission of COVID-19. After almost two years of students using the space in accordance with the above restrictions and more, this flexible masking policy poses a "new" experience for visitors of the LSC and an "old" experience to those who knew what it was like prior to the pandemic.

Although the policy change may be a positive sign of moving forward through the pandemic, the virus is still present and many members of the community are weary of that. Two student employees of the LSC, who work at the front desk, have given their observations thus far.

"People are still coming to the front desk and asking for masks. I think people are still being vigilant about the issue regardless of the policy update," said Sharoni Marcus '22.

"I still see some students wearing their masks in the LSC. However, I've also noticed that after the update more people are coming in," said Anthony Merchlinsky '24

It is still expected that students are responsible enough to take necessary precautions when showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, but this new sense of freedom may have increased the hopefulness in many in regards to eventually returning to some sort of normalcy on campus.

A few frequent visitors have noted their outlooks on the policy update and the new environment that it has created in the LSC.

Ethan Brochin '25 adds, "Since the policy update has taken place, I personally feel more inclined to use the facility. I feel grateful that our campus is able to start moving forward."

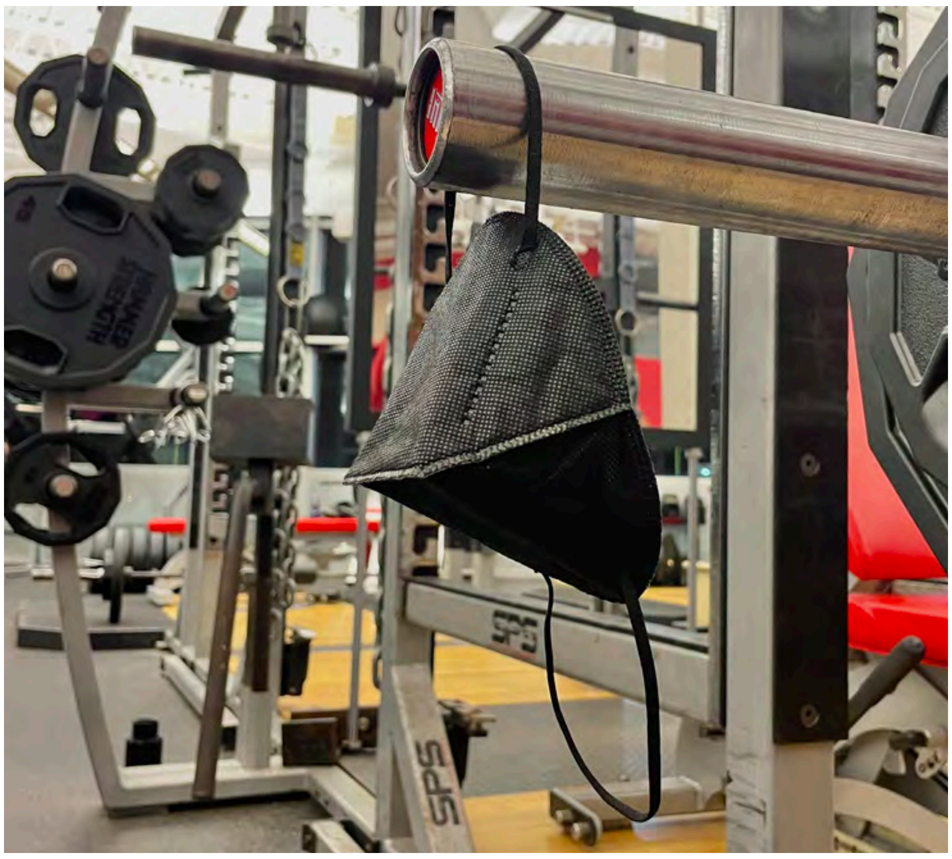
For some, the policy update has made taking the trip to the LSC more attractive.

"It is great to be moving in a positive direction in accordance with the CDC guidelines. I think that not having to wear a mask while inside the LSC, specifically, has not only made a big difference in the experience of going there but more so– the actual physicality of working out inside," said Ryan May '24.

Frequent users of the gym seem to be hopeful about this specific location being mask free. The flexible masking policy gives freedom to choose when and where you feel that a mask is appropriate. Paige Addis '24 notes, "I was happy to oblige by all of the previous restrictions that the school put in place. However, it's definitely nice to be working back towards normalcy especially in the LSC."

It has not been easy for any institution to navigate the pandemic while trying to provide for a "normal" college experience and simultaneously keep the community as safe as possible. In fact, when dealing with a global pandemic, normalcy is not usually the priority, leaving the Muhlenberg community to ask if this policy update will last.

Photo by Rebecca Clark '23



People can now choose to mask or not in spaces like the LSC.

Jay's Local

SUNDAY

Pop-Up Shops

Steel City Plant Co.

Popular Bethlehem based plant shop specializing in pet friendly, already potted house plants.

Petro Dessert Studio

This local favorite will be here with a delicious assortment of cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, creme brûlée, cookies, hand pies & more.

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Mar. 31 - Apr. 7

Women's Lacrosse	Baseball	Women's Tennis	Men's Tennis
Muhlenberg vs Ursinus	Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg	Muhlenberg vs Ursinus	Muhlenberg vs Ursinus
Sat, Apr. 2 @ 12:00 p.m.	Sat, Apr. 2 @ 12:00 p.m.	Tues, Apr. 5 @ 3:30 p.m.	Wed, Apr. 6 @ 3:30 p.m.
Collegeville, Pa.	Cedar Creek Field	Kern Field Courts	Kern Field Courts

The Muhlenberg Greekly

Τ Μ Σ

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APRIL FOOLS!

'Berg Weekly turns into hypermasculine fraternity

The new Tau Mu Sigma kicks out all female-identifying students

Photo by Reba Clark '23

The Muhlenberg Weekly turns into a cult—no sorry, a fraternity.

By Katherine Conlon
A Badass

On Mar. 21 The Muhlenberg Weekly editorial board announced that they were going to be the newest Greek life organization. The paper, which has been printing since 1883, was previously a co-ed, independent newspaper that was inclusive of all identities. However, as of Apr. 1, the paper will be endowed with a new name: Tau Mu Sigma.

This news has come as a shock not only to the student body at large but also to several members of The Weekly's staff. Managing Editor Cydney Wilson '23 was particularly outraged saying, "I have been fervently anti-Greek-life for years. To see my worst nightmare unfold in front of me is appalling. Yeah, I'm gonna go to the formal, but I won't be happy about it."

Co-news Editor Ally Duvak '22 expressed similar sentiments stating, "I don't understand where the push for this change came from. I mean I'm graduating in a couple weeks so I really don't care but it sucks for you guys."

This outcry is primarily from the women on-staff due in part to the fact that The Weekly is now only including male-identifying individuals in their ranks. This decision was not unanimous, rather Sports Editor Tom Hiller '23 changed the code to The Weekly's office lock. Hiller only revealed the new combination to the male-identifying individuals on the editorial board.

When we asked Hiller for a comment, he referred us to Assistant Sports Editor Matthew Baker-Grunza '25. Baker-Grunza was more willing to talk, saying, "Tom is really making this place what it needs to be. If there's one thing Muhlenberg needs more of it's fraternities, and Tom is the perfect leader. He already has experience being in a fraternity and there's absolutely no way that this can go wrong." When asked by the excluded individuals on staff what the door's new code was, Baker-Grunza hesitated. "Look, I'm not saying that it's '6969' but I'm also not saying it's not '6969.'"

Not only has this shift proved to be an ethical dilemma, it is also posing safety concerns. Currently, all members of Tau Mu Sigma are living and sleeping in The Weekly's office in the basement of Seegers Union. Having so many people in such a small space without proper accommodations is proving to be difficult. Campus Safety, Housing and Residence Life and even President Kathleen Harring have all been notified. However, the only response has come from Harring's office in a one-line email stating, "boys will be boys."

The new frat brothers seem to be enjoying their living situation. Arts and Culture co-Editor Danny Milkis '23 said, "I really feel like this is a great bonding opportunity for us. So the floor's a little uncomfortable. Who cares! Am I mad that Tom gets to sleep on the couch every night while I can feel every vertebrae in my back get misaligned? No, not at all! I love my brothers and that's all that matters."

Lecturer in the media & communication department and The Weekly's advisor Sara Vigneri is unsettled by this change. "I was recently informed by Matthew Baker-Grunza that I was thrown out of my position as the paper's advisor. When I asked who I would be replaced by, Matthew said Steve Dutton. I don't know if I even want to tell them that he left the College. Maybe if they read the paper they would've known," said Vigneri.

Not all of the men on staff have agreed to this change. Arts and Culture co-Editor Johnny Veglia '24 said, "I was okay with the idea of joining a fraternity at first but then when everyone turned down my suggestion of going to Disney as a brother-bonding trip, I knew that Greek life wasn't for me."

This issue is the last chance for our female-identifying writers and editors to have their voice be heard. So, in that spirit I want to say Jake Gyllenhal deserves life in prison and the second "High School Musical" was better than the first one.

We're riding the bus to flavor-town!!

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Katherine Dickey
Your Mom
Alex Blum
Sports Section Traitor
Cydney Wilson
Currently Abroad
Sarah Wedeking
Indesign Enemy
Or-El Ankori
Not Media OR Com
Katherine Conlon
A Badass
Ally Duvak
Sister of the Non-Sorority Variety

Matthew Baresh
Chris Rock's Face
Mustafa Hall
Physically Ill
Danny Milkis
Longboard Professor
Jonathan Veglia
Certified Disney Adult
Ian Clark
Pretentious Film Major
Tom Hiller
Illtiteriate Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
New Writer Educator

Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor without a Camera
Keanna Peña
BookLover207
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Copy Editor

MAILING ADDRESS
Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL
weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE
muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE
867-5309

Campus Safety Notes

March 17, 2022
Academic Row: Suspicious person – spotting of small man in bright green suit. Investigation to follow.

March 21, 2022
Java Joe: Disorderly conduct involving individuals completing the Ice Bucket Challenge using hot coffee.
Center for the Arts: Noise complaint reported, multiple theatre kids caught scream-singing "Seasons of Love." Suspects jazz squared out of sight before an official report could be filed.

March 22, 2022
Empie Theatre: Suspicious person – the individual, one F. Grande, stated he was simply "trying to relive his college days."

March 23, 2022
Above Seegers Union: Student reported sighting of unidentified flying object. Further investigation to follow.

March 25, 2022
Prosser Hall: Suspicious person – the individual, an apparent Muhlenberg Weekly writer, taken into custody after "going the distance" to try and contact another student regarding a quote.

March 27, 2022
Muhlenberg Weekly Office: Injured student – a member of the Muhlenberg Weekly staff transported to hospital after violent outbreak regarding the Oxford Comma.

March 28, 2022
College Green: Disorderly conduct incident as students attempted to recreate the Will Smith slap after watching the Academy Awards.
Trexler Library: Report of students copulating on the C-level bean bags. Investigation to follow.

March 29, 2022
Life Sports Center: Disorderly conduct – group of students reported urinating in the swimming pool. Investigation to follow.

Marti the Mule named school spirit director of Collegiate Panhellenic Council

By Ally Duvak
Sister of the non-sorority variety

Whether you are an accepted student, a recent graduate or an alumnus of Muhlenberg, you probably know and love one gray mule mascot: Marti the Mule. Colloquially referred to as "The Mule" until his official naming ceremony during Mule Madness in 2017, Marti has faced a great deal of change, especially as of late. For one thing, he certainly seems to have grown in his on-campus popularity and reputation in the five years since receiving his official moniker. So much so, in fact, that Marti will soon be sporting a new title: school spirit director of Muhlenberg's Collegiate Panhellenic Council.

The soon-to-be school spirit director sat down with The Weekly alongside various student members of Greek life to share his thoughts about the upcoming change and what he is looking forward to in the new position.

"I think this marks a really exciting transition time, not only for Muhlenberg College's Greek Life community, but for the College as a whole. As school spirit director of the Collegiate Panhellenic Council, I intend to engage the entire campus community in new and exciting ways and prove that there is a place for anyone and everyone in Greek life. And I think that my pro-hazing point of view will be the first step toward encouraging new initiatives."

After a brief but heated conversation with an anonymous brother from an unnamed fraternity, Marti corrected his previous statement by adding: "Sorry. My anti-hazing point of view. Strictly anti. Very anti."

Marti's addition to the team marks a change for the council itself. Though the council is typically governed by students, Marti can now potentially serve as a liaison between the council and the College's administration.

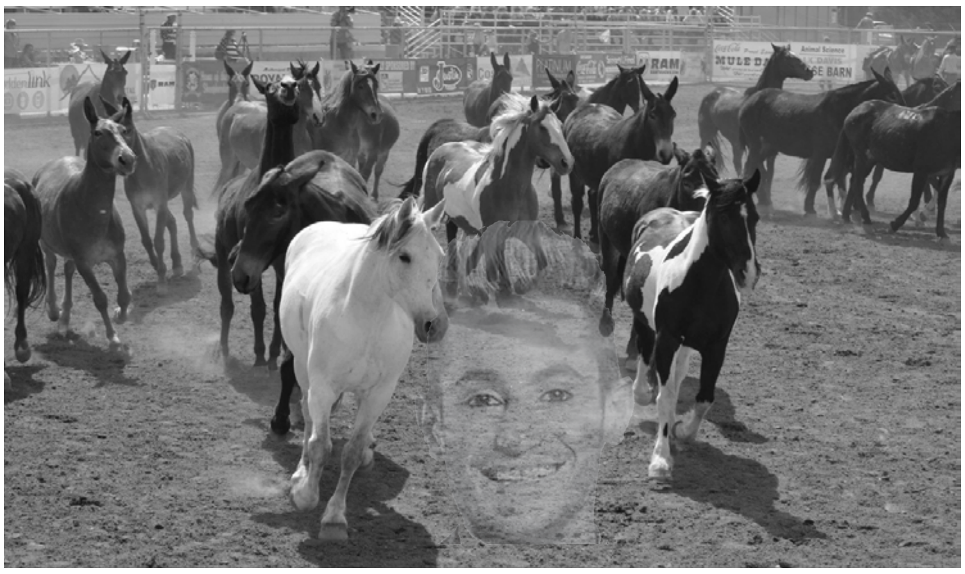
The Weekly's attempts at reaching the administration resulted in confusion. "School spirit director?" Dean of Students Allison Williams asked in an interview with the paper regarding the mascot's recent promotion. "That position doesn't exist. Who told you that exists?"

Both student and administrative opinions seem to vary on the mascot's presence on the council.

"I mean, don't get me wrong, I'm super happy that we're broadening our horizons as far as who gets a seat at the table," an anonymous sorority sister stated. "It's just… a little weird that he won't ever take off the mascot head. Or tell us his real name. It's like… who's in there, you know?"

"It's just a little weird that he won't ever take off the mascot head."

A second unnamed sister concurred with this opinion, stating, "Dude is weird as hell. I'm not really comfortable working with a giant donkey all the time…"



Marti and his friends in Greek Life hit the ground running.

For Marti, the focus should remain on the students. "How do we beat stereotypes and show that anyone and everyone, mascot or not, is welcome to join our community? That's my primary concern."

Problems have already begun for the new school spirit director: allegations have poured in about the apparent misconduct of the newly formed Tau Mu Sigma fraternity previously known as The Muhlenberg Weekly. Rumors have swirled about the organization's mistreatment of female-identifying members. When asked for a comment, Marti stated, "No comment! I'm not even sure I can make a comment, actually, given that I haven't been initiated. How does that work, actually? How do people get initiated?"

The campus community eagerly awaits the contributions that Marti may or may not make after his initiation takes place. At this time there is no official date for when Marti will begin in this position. But if he has his way, Marti states he will, quote, "Hit the ground running!"

I AM A SURVIVOR

By Jonathan Veglia
Certified Disney Adult

The Muhlenberg Weekly has been an active fraternity for only a couple days, but mischief is already afoot.

This past week, a group of brothers, including myself, sat down to play two truths and a lie. The event was held in the fraternity house of the Weekly, which can be found by completely moving the tables in the center of the office to create a hexagon with six members in the dead center of the room to create a pentagram. Once this formation is finished, the gates to the house are unveiled, glowing with a sharp red glow. However, the doors can only be opened after chanting the super secret phrase, “Cydney Wilson [‘23] is the ultimate sorority girl.”

This chant not only highlights the misogynist ideals of the fraternity, but the true passions of Wilson, who claims to not be involved in any and all Greek life. Wilson has been seen at multiple formals, but Wilson is innocent in this vicious story (this was not coerced by Wilson).

Wilson stated, “I just don’t think Greek life is acceptable at Muhlenberg or beyond, but I did just have to get eight dresses for formals. If you disagree with me, you are just wrong, thank you.”

The doors then swallow you whole, and place you in the smelly, disgusting basement of a house bound to two realities, the dark dimensions of fear and ‘Berg. A shrine devoted to Marti the Mule can also be seen in the corner, with Matthew Baker-Grunza ‘25, assistant sports editor, constantly on guard 24/7 on every day not ending with y.

Baker-Grunza mentioned, “It’s a job, sometimes, you know? Tau Mu Sigma stands for something. You know, it’s great that they are finally letting freshmen rush. Though who knows if the administration even knows what is going on. All good with me though, as an IVF baby I’ve always wanted siblings, I love my brothers. Tau Mu Sigma for life.”

Tau Mu Sigma, the new name of the Weekly, can be seen in bright red letters, but only when someone keeps it plugged in. The staff ran out of extension cords with the move to the otherworldly fraternity house.

The budget is also limited due to the purchase of 551 locks and only three keys. No one knows exactly what these locks are for as the fraternity is keeping that information private and questions at bay. Rumor has been swirling that the locks are for a new statue to commemorate Sabrina Spellman, after the president of the fraternity started watching the hit (now canceled) Netflix show. I claimed my love and admiration for the show, but everybody said it wasn’t okay. I’m the Disney guy, not the spooky guy.

The two truths and a lie event held with only the male-identifying staff was interesting at best and pleasant at worst. The moments of pleasantness only lasted for a couple of minutes and then it turned to deep and utter despair as Ian Clark ‘25, assistant editor of the arts and culture section, complained about the latest Disney film. I try to keep it together, but as a Disney adult and consumer of bad Disney fashion, my heart breaks piece by piece. My fashion style still looks good though as seen with my award from last semester’s formal: “Best Dressed.”

I decided to approach the challenge with two truths about my riveting family life back at home in Union County, New Jersey: I have no pets and Muhlenberg runs in the family. My lie was that I have never been to Disneyland in California.

Boom.

Outrage.

Hatred.

Everybody roared with outrage that I was lying. They stated I had two lies. I really have pets and I have been to Disneyland, but it’s just not true. Why would I tell two lies? The accusations grew stronger as someone ran over to the letters to light them up.

Clark claimed better lighting to the situation, as he is a film major of course. I was hit with the accusation, glowing red and all. Baker-Grunza claimed it was hazing. Hazing.

I tried to plead with them telling them how it was just a misunderstanding. How is being honest hazing? How is this fair? I just don’t understand how The Weekly, with a supposed statue of one of my favorite fictional characters, Sabrina Spellman, is now a monster?

Tears ran down my face as I tried to find the way out of this muggy and gross trap. I had to force my way out by arranging my body to form my own pentagram. My body started levitating as Dua Lipa appeared before my eyes, reassuring me of my pain and telling me I will always be a loser for not seeing her during the Future Nostalgia Tour. Thank you to my fam back home for that one.

I landed upon Mustafa Hall ‘23 and Reba Clark ‘23 and they just laughed at me, which is deserved sometimes, but not when I am at my lowest. However, Reba looked me in the eyes and reassured me of my strength.

Clark stated, “You are a survivor.”

THE TROUBADOURS OF TREXLER

HONORING MEN IN GREEK LIFE WHO HAVE POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE MUHLENBERG ARTS SCENE

By Danny Milkis
Visiting Professor, Longboarding & Society

Over the past decade, the Muhlenberg community has witnessed a number of important changes to the way the visual and performing arts are approached on campus. The Weekly had the privilege of speaking to some of the unsung heroes of the arts landscape–‘The Eccentrics of Empie,’ if you would. Here are interviews with Greek-affiliated men from the past hundred years who have been essential to the growth of Muhlenberg theatre, dance, music, studio art and instrumental music:

- Frankie Grande ’05
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SQUIRRELGATE

SQUIRRELROIDS INVADE THE SANCTITY OF CLUB SPORTS

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
New Writer Educator

The Ultimate Frisbee team smiles despite the attack of the squirrelroids.

Muhlenberg Athletics prides itself on sportsmanship and integrity, but a recent development in the school's only club team has many questioning the integrity of the Flying Squirrels.

A day in the life of a club sport athlete begins with an early meeting at the Frisbee house with weary eyes, the Squirrels load into their personal cars for the traditional breakfast of Wawa at zero six hundred. In the fall season, it was not uncommon to see players experiencing tremendous fatigue after one day of this grueling ordeal. On the second day of competition the Squirrels returned to the pitch, admittedly some of the players had participated in late night activities and were expected to be in poor form. However, the Squirrels rose to the challenge, losing with honor to DI competition such as Rutgers University and reportedly scaring other DI competition such as Lehigh University into forfeiting.

This oddity drove The Muhlenberg Weekly investigative team to look into team behavior over the past semester, as well as interview past and present Squirrels on their experience with the team. How had the team achieved such a feat? How could they overcome the compounding effects of St. Patty's day and six hours of all out competition? Are the Squirrels doping?

First, the data, in the team's recent selling of Squirrel themed hats, the vast majority of hat wearers have increased by at least two sizes, a common effect of doping. This may be due to the well known effects of GQ mozzarella sticks, but a more insidious and likely explanation may be the A-rod at bat or the Lance Armstrong leverage– the Squirrelroids. When asked about the implication of this growing head size a leader on the team stated, "Many of the Squirrels suffer from a tragic condition called Megamind, which is a disease that slowly expands the foramen magnum, due to a malfunction in the powerhouse of the cell– the mitochondria."

Upon further research, this disease supposedly affects performance in other areas of the body. A randomized survey of Muhlenberg's sexually active students showed that Squirrelcock size lies above the normalized distribution of Muhlenberg men. Therefore, the captain′s quote seems to be the only thing dysfunctioning on the Frisbee team. Just another part of an ethical conundrum and coverup only comparable to the likes of Watergate.

Further investigation gleaned information about a deeper dealing plot between the Flying Squirrels and their flying fraternals– namely every male dominated Greek organization. Weekly sources suggest that Squirrels are obtaining the drugs from the fraternities. Evidence to support such a ghastly claim lies in the Squirrel roster; of the upperclassmen competing in the tournament Saturday and Sunday, 80% are involved in Greek life. Hailing from Alpha Tau Omega (4), Zeta Beta Tau (5), and Alpha Epsilon Pi (2). Not listed here is Delta Tau Delta, however the flying fraternal here may be the most sith-like of all as they are also a trained EMT, capable of administering such Squirrelroids.

The Weekly also reached out to a past Squirrel and soon-to-be transfer student. The teammate immediately hung up the phone, seemingly out of fear. As with all ethical plots, violence is sure to rear its ugly head when the truth is exposed. Is the ex-patriot Squirrel transferring so they can avoid the organized crime syndicate: IFA (Inter-Fraternity Army)?

Here are the means and ends that the Muhlenberg Flying Squirrels took to improve so greatly in the past semester, tearing at the tapestry that is Muhlenberg club sports' reputation, and tarnishing a tremendous legacy.

Grace Oddo '22, a reputable figure of the community commented, "I am not surprised by the recent allegations,″ expanding that there's a reason the football team stays away from these guys, saying, "They're trouble." She also added that she had heard rumors of the team getting dope not only from the fraternities on campus, but the Muhlenberg Comedy Association as well. An equally plausible conspiracy-not-conspiracy theory, conspiracy since the new jerseys were provided by a member of Muhlenberg Improv Association. The Squirrels are certainly entrenched in the Squirrely sins of money.

From the perspective of a Muhlenberg athlete, Catherine Maguire '25, member of the volleyball team, feels "extremely uncomfortable." Esmae Oehler '25, another member of the volleyball team adds that, "They should just go to the gym– BICEP CURLS." Genuine feelings of betrayal have taken the hearts of athletes and non-athletes alike, as a team that embodied the weird uncle who doesn't wear shoes, is now the weird uncle who takes a needle in the butt.

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Marti to succeed legend Hnatkowsky

By Tom Hiller
Illiiterate Sports Editor

While the spring season has only just begun, the writers of The Muhlenberg Weekly need to fill out our quota of at least one Muhlenberg football team article for the month. So, what better way than to try and answer the biggest prevailing question surrounding ‘Berg football: who will be the next starting quarterback? The team has been previously helmed by Michael Hnatkowsky ‘21, who virtually rewrote the entire school record book. A successor must be named. “We’re gonna search far and wide to see who’s the best fit guy to lead our team,” said an anonymous coach of the team, “Even if that means we gotta look outward too.”

The Mules have young, proven talent in the QB room, chomping at the bits to be the one who commands the huddle. We here at The Muhlenberg Weekly, however, want to throw our two cents in as to who should lead the football team into the foreseeable future. The next starting quarterback of the Muhlenberg football team should be the one and only... Marti the Mule.

Now, before you throw away the newspaper you’re currently holding, reason with us here. I’m sure you have some questions: Can Marti even throw a football? Does he have the brain capacity to command the huddle and dissect college defenses? Is Marti even eligible to be a student-athlete? Sure, Marti is an unproven prospect, but The Weekly knows one thing about him, he bleeds for the cardinal and grey.

“Yeah, Marti kinda already looks like a football player,” Smiggly Bupert ‘24, “One time at one of our home games, I saw Marti completely lay out the other team’s mascot, so I can totally see him out on the field.”

Marti has shown throughout his time at Muhlenberg that, through thick and thin, he will be on the sideline every Saturday to watch and cheer on the football team. You know what they say, the best kind of ability is availability. “Oh I cannot wait to get out on the field and prove to everyone that I can be their guy,” said Marti. “I know there’s a lot of pressure that will be placed on me, especially after the amount of success Hnatkowsky had at the position for so long. But, as long as I show my hard work and determination, I think the team will be in a good position. Roll Mules.”

Here’s what we do know about Marti. After celebrating Marti’s “Mule Mitzvah,” we can determine that Marti is 13 years old, meaning that the mascot is a fully grown Mule. On average, an adult Mule can weigh around 820-1000 Ibs. Mules can also reach a top speed of 15 MPH. So, imagine being a defender having to bring down Marti the Mule, the betting odds is you choose Marti to win every time. Not only can Marti run someone over, but he can endure longer than anyone as well. The average mule can carry up to 300 pounds for 20 miles in one singular day; talk about being conditioned and able to carry the team on his back.

With Marti at QB, the offense will likely see more of a bit of an overhaul. The team would likely benefit from plays designed to have Marti use his legs, and less of his arm, in order to push the ball down the field.

The Weekly contacted a representative of the NCAA for their input on if an anthropomorphic mule would find success on the DIII level, they responded back with the following: “The NCAA is fully behind Marti in his endeavor to play the sport he loves. We are also committed to any and all mascots to try out for their school’s team.”

The representative then went on a full tangent about how they believe this move will bring the organization a significant increase in revenue. “We believe that allowing mascots to play football will help the NCAA and academic institutions to bring in all the revenue we’ve lost the last two seasons due to Name Image Likeness (NIL) deals. Who’s idea was it to let these student-athletes make money that they rightfully deserve?... oh wait that was ours.”

No matter if Marti looks to make some money off athletic performance, The Weekly is in the Mule’s corner and cannot wait to see Marti slinging the rock this fall.

PAIGE'S PAGE

By Paige Weisburg
Bad Advice Giver

Hey besties! Welcome to this week’s edition of Paige’s Page! I hope you all had a restful spring break and you are easing back into your busy schedules! I know that the first week after break is always really hard so I hope you were able to take time to readjust in whatever way you could. This week we are doing some more super fun questions! I am so excited to answer these because I think we all could benefit from taking ourselves a little less seriously. Let′s get started!

Hey Paige, why is no one in love with me?

Hi, bestie! Wow, this question is really deep. In the words of my favorite person from the counseling center whose name I will not disclose, people are probably in love with you. (Are you catching on to where the unjustified confidence is coming from?) Like, multiple. And if they aren’t then you probably suck a little bit. But that′s okay! Learn to love yourself first because no one can love someone that hates themselves. It’s also okay to pretend that every person you interact with on a day to day basis is obsessed with you at all times. Here are some examples that may work for you: did the hot person who works at Java Joe tell you that they like your outfit? Plan your wedding, like now. Did the guy in your class say “to piggyback off of your point”? That mean she′s obsessed with you and you should ask him to get dinner. Did a cute girl bump into you and literally knock you to the ground without apologizing and walk away? She thinks you’re cool, and you should ask for her Instagram and then like her last five recent posts. I know my life and personal wellbeing has exponentially improved by thinking like this. Remember, it’s not delusion, it’s self love.

Hi Paige, I’m on the men’s basketball team here at Muhlenberg, I want to break out of my comfort zone and try out for some plays. I have been told in the past that I have a really great voice, but my athlete friends are super against my creative journey. What do you think I should do?

Hey, bestie, happy March Madness! I think you should give it a shot! Your teammates could come to watch you bop to the top! Who wouldn’t want to support their talented friends trying new things. Fun story, I actually just auditioned for my first Muhlenberg production in the Red Door Play Festival! I got in and my friends are so excited to watch me. It could be the start of something new for you, maybe you could finally find what you’ve been looking for. Don’t stick to the status quo because you feel like you have to. Here, there is no theater kid box, or athlete box (even though I have heard via a certain Instagram page we are DIII at both) that you have to put yourself into. Do what makes you happy! Maybe try encouraging your friends to stay in their lane and to get their heads in the game. Only supportive people should stick around to watch your acting debut live. You need to break free of whatever is holding you back. Ultimately they are still your teammates and when it comes to basketball you are all in this together so remember that these relationships go beyond the court and they should always have your back.

Hi Paige, I am your secret admirer. You are so hot, smart and funny. I feel like if you knew who I was you would never be into someone like me. How does a guy like me land a gal like you?

Hi, bestie! I love this question! Thank you so much for your kind words! You can’t tell because you are reading in a paper copy of the Weekly, but I’m blushing. I would first like to say that your lack of confidence proves your point correct, I wouldn’t be interested in you. However, it also proves it very wrong because you can ask literally any of my friends, I love insecure men. Here is how to get me to fall in love with you; pay very close attention because this has been incredibly helpful in men learning how to cause me immense emotional distress. Step 1: Laugh at everything I say, you just said I’m funny so you’re so close already. Step 2: Let me be mean to you; it is my love language. Step 3: Remember insignificant details that I have referenced maybe one singular time. I have this thing about people not listening to me that I am working on in therapy, and I will fall instantly. Step 4: Be Jewish. When I was in kindergarden, I had a “boyfriend” named Ben. He told me he would convert to Judaism for us to be able to get married. He is my favorite “ex-boyfriend.” (If he wanted to—he would, ladies.) Step 5: Don’t be cringy. I catch “the ick” faster than college students catch mono (which I have already had), don’t sabotage yourself by doing totally normal things. Step 6: Stop drinking water, I like my men dehydrated. Step 7: and this is the most important step of all, DO NOT, under any circumstances, like me back. Since you have already told me you do, it′s not looking like love is in the cards for us buddy, but if you reevaluate and do these things I could be yours so, so soon. Better luck next time <3

If you could not tell, this was a joke. April Fools! I have actually received these questions from readers of Paige’s Page. I hope these answers were all you hoped and dreamed for and that you had a good chuckle! If you did not get this, I feel incredibly sorry for you and I hope you get well soon.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @ paigeweisburg and in The Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” finds a snake in its boot

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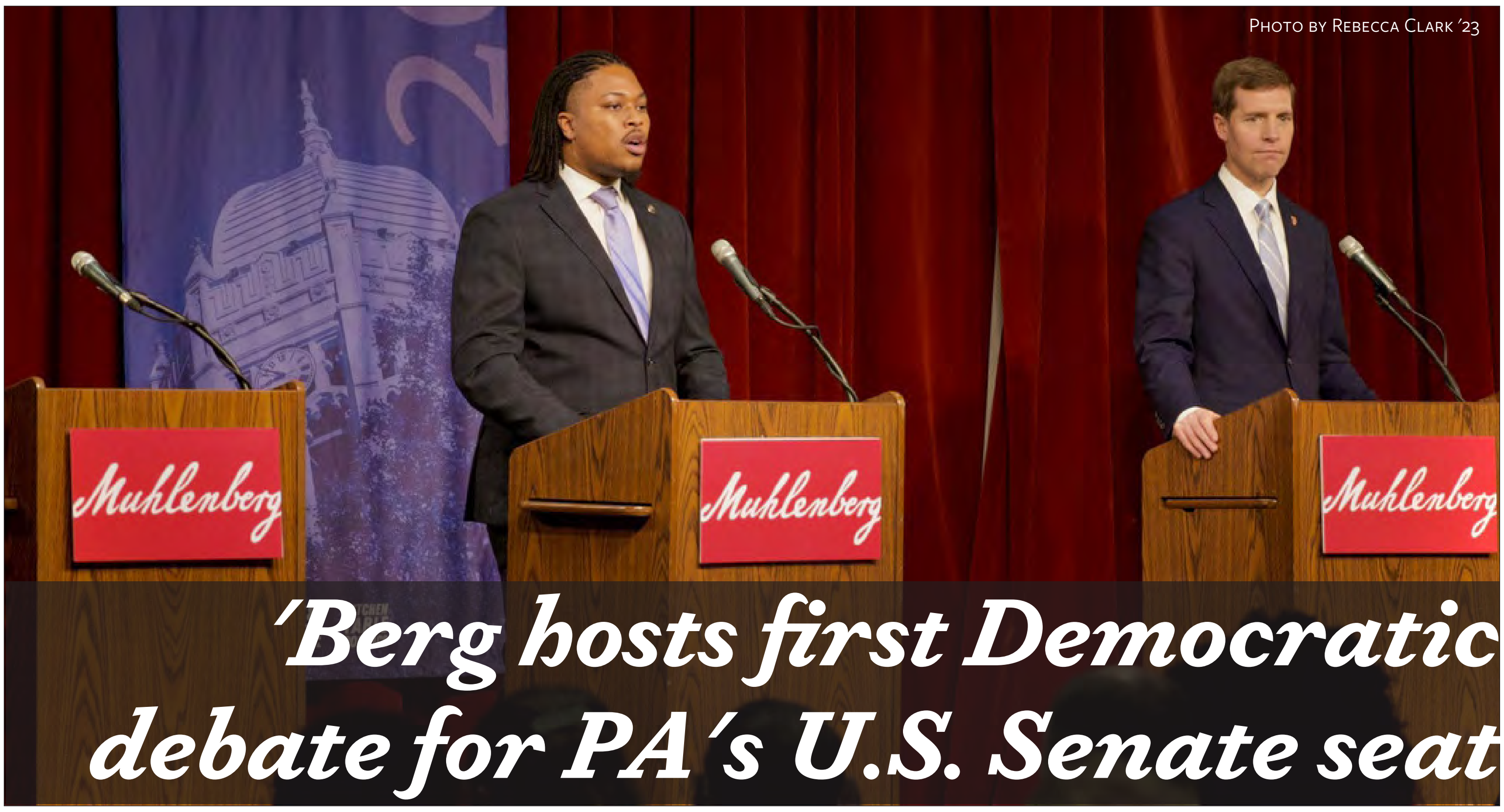

Photo by Rebecca Clark ’23

’Berg hosts first Democratic debate for PA’s U.S. Senate seat

Representative Kenyatta and Congressman Lamb debating next to the empty podium where Lt. Governor Fetterman should have been.

By Katherine Conlon
Co-news Editor

On Apr. 3, students, faculty, local community members and politicians gathered in the Event Space of Seegers Union for the first debate in the U.S. Senate race for Pennsylvania’s empty seat. The candidates in attendance included Pennsylvania State Representative for the 181st district— which includes parts of Philadelphia— Malcolm Kenyatta and U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania’s 17th district Conor Lamb. Missing from the afternoon’s event was Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman. His absence was emphasized by the other candidates, with Lamb saying, “[Fetterman] didn’t respect you enough to show up today.” The debate was moderated by Professor of Political Science Christopher Borick, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief of City & State PA Jenny DeHuff and the founder and host of political podcast “Pennsylvania Kitchen Table Politics” Ari Mittleman. The event was sponsored by City & State PA, Pennsylvania Kitchen Table Politics, the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion, Muhlenberg College Democrats and The Muhlenberg Weekly.

Fetterman’s refusal to take part in the conversation was not the only critique Lamb and Kenyatta had against the Lieutenant Governor. An incident in which Fetterman pulled a gun on an unarmed Black man was a major point of contention. “John [Fetterman] made a choice, he made a choice to point a shotgun at the chest of an unarmed Black man and then say afterward that he would ‘do it again.’ John placed that man’s life in danger. It was wrong, what he did, and he skipped the debate today because he doesn’t think he has to answer for it,” said Lamb. Kenyatta had similar thoughts, saying, “If John can’t show up to talk to other Democrats about the importance of this race, about what he would do as our next United States Senator, who the hell really believes that John is going to be able to show up and stand up and fight for our values in Washington?”

Where the candidates disagreed with one another essentially boiled down to a divide between the values of eastern and western Pennsylvania. This was highlighted when the topic of fracking and natural gas was brought up. Western Pennsylvania has struggled with a changing industry landscape, specifically in regards to energy sources. Lamb is a supporter of fracking as many of his constituents hold jobs in the field. Lamb believes that fracking provides for “more jobs, lower bills and less war.” He also stated that, “It gets a bad name because of some bad practices here in our state... but it is a very very powerful tool.”

Kenyatta rebutted Lamb’s sentiments, stating, “[Fracking] doesn’t have a ‘PR’ problem, it is an actual problem. We still do not know, right now, what chemicals are being put into our groundwater.” In Kenyatta’s opinion, large gas and oil companies are already investing in sustainable energy and Pennsylvania is able to make the transition into this sector of industry.

Both Kenyatta and Lamb attempted to appeal to the college student demographic. The student debt crisis was a relevant subject mentioned during the discourse. Both candidates agreed that loans for college students need to be forgiven. “We need to cancel student loan debt, and we need to start to do the hard work of making sure college is more affordable in the first place. We need to make two years of community college, at least, free,” said Kenyatta.

The Weekly had the opportunity to speak with Lamb who addressed his plans to get coveted student votes saying, “I’ve done a lot in my four years in Congress on student loans, on climate change, which in my experience are the top two issues I hear about from young people. I just voted on Friday to legalize marijuana... I think if we can talk about the way that our party is best when we work together... that’s how we win and that’s how we actually make changes for the long term.”

Other topics addressed during the debate included cybersecurity threats, Middle Eastern foreign policy, nuclear power, abolishing the debt ceiling, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rican statehood and Pennsylvania’s farmers.

While Kenyatta and Lamb generally directed their insults at the absent Fetterman, there was a bit of friction between

See **Senate** page 4

College reverts back to Yellow Phase

Return to more restrictive masking policy amidst rise of COVID cases

Read more on page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

Katherine Dickey
Editor-In-Chief
Alex Blum
Managing Editor
Cydney Wilson
Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor
Or-El Ankori
Layout Editor
Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor
Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor
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Ian Clark
Assistant A&C Editor
Tom Hiller
Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS
Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL
weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE
muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE
484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

03/15/2022
South Hall: Point of information report, damage found to window, investigation to continue.
Benfer Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

03/16/2022
Front Quad: Report of found cell phone, unknown to whom item belongs, phone placed in lost and found locker.

03/20/2022
Life Sports Center: Report of fire alarm, upon arrival no cause could be found, system silenced and reset.

03/21/2022
Leh Street: Report of lost phone, item later found.
Liberty and 26th Streets: Point of information report.
Trexler Pavilion: Report of sick student, student transported to Student Health Services by Campus Safety Officer.
South Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset

03/22/2022
Brown Hall: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.
Ettinger Hall: Report of found Apple pencil, unknown to whom item belongs, item placed in lost and found locker.
East Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.

03/24/2022
Ettinger Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, no further treatment or transport at this time.

03/25/2022
Walz Hall: Report to locate student, contact made, no further incident.
East Hall: Report to return item to owner.
Allen Street: Report of noise complaint, residents identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Scotty Wood Stadium-Marino Field: Report of suspicious activity, area checked, nothing could be noted.

03/26/2022
M.I.L.E. House: Report of trespass, area checked, investigation to continue.

03/27/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of damage to door, individual identified and spoken to, Plant Operations notified to repair door.
Walz Hall: Report of injured student, upon arrival student refused further treatment or transport.

03/28/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS

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Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS

An update on SGA and elections

Student Government Association reflects and gears up for elections.

By Gabi Hirshfield
Staff Writer

Throughout the spring semester, members of the Muhlenberg Student Government Association (SGA) have facilitated many events and have been pushing for changes on campus. SGA is a highly influential force here at Muhlenberg, providing students with a voice and a platform to share their concerns and create change for the College.

With the student government elections coming up, many SGA officials have been reflecting on the success of the spring semester so far.

President Zaire Carter ‘22 thinks back on some of the events that SGA organized saying, “This semester SGA hosted the Mule Mitzvah, the Diversity Chair Dinner and will be hosting the Spring Wrap-up event. I find all of these events to be successful in their own way. That′s the beauty of the work we do with SGA. As long as students enjoy the events and know that we are here for them, each of these events are successful.”

Representative Maya Brooks ‘24 spoke on the Mule Mitzvah event saying, “I think the Mule Mitzvah was the most successful [event] because it was the closest to what we hoped it would look like. So many people came out to celebrate and it reminded me so much of my own Bat Mitzvah. We hoped to blend Hillel and SGA, and we accomplished this.”

Representative Ryan Dratler ‘24 discussed the success of the Mule Mitzvah event as well, saying, “We had the Mule Mitzvah, which was a successful opportunity for non-Jewish students to experience a little bit of the magic of a Bar Mitzvah, a Bat Mitzvah or a B’nai Mitzvah, but also for students in general to have some fun and party, dance to music and eat some nice food.”

Dratler spoke on the goals of events such as Mule Mitzvah saying, “Our goal is to provide students with another outlet for communal engagement and communal recreation. The campus engagement committee, which is the committee I’m on, is tasked with organizing these events, and our goal is to make opportunities for students to have fun, engage with each other and meet new people.”

Brooks discussed some goals for the spring semester saying, “SGA’s goal for the spring was to continue to support organizations on campus such as [returning] club enACT and put on events.”

Facilitating events is certainly not the only thing that SGA does. Carter spoke on some of SGA’s overarching goals to effect change for students on campus, saying, “In terms of goals, we are still working on our pilot program to put good quality free menstrual products in women′s and gender-inclusive restrooms as well as creating a committee to begin to do work on investigating how we can increase student wages on campus.”

Photo courtesy of Zaire Carter ′22

Britney Jara ′23, Ian Clark ′25, Margery Leit ′24 and Ben Eber ′23, parts of the DEI committee of SGA smiling at their event from Sunday.

In terms of SGA’s plans for next semester, Brooks stated, “Because there is going to be a big administration shakeup with the new election, it is hard to say specifically what goals will be created but we are going to have a very strong E-board and are looking forward to a very successful semester.” Carter also spoke on this, saying, “In regards to the fall, as president, I chair the General Election Committee. We are very excited that we will have a general election later this month and a new SGA administration will be sworn in to continue the work that my administration has worked so hard for. Students will hear more about that in the coming week, but I couldn′t be more proud of the work we′ve done.”

The general election for the Executive Board and the representative positions will take place on Apr. 27, and students will vote by email. On Apr. 14 Executive Board and Representative Statement of Intent is due, and candidates will be announced on Apr. 19. The presidential debate will be held on Apr. 20, and the winners will be announced on Apr. 28.

Parkway Boulevard Building on track

Scheduled for completion in time for the fall 2022 semester

By Matthew Klinger
Staff Writer

Last year the College announced a plan to build the Parkway Boulevard Building and to create a 42,000 square foot expansion to Seegers Union. Now, a year later, the Parkway Boulevard Building is almost done and on schedule to finish before the start of the fall 2022 semester, while the preliminary sketches for the Seegers expansion have been completed.

The Parkway Boulevard Building will house a number of departments, including the Office of Community Engagement, department of innovation and entrepreneurship, the Muhlenberg College Institute for Public Opinion, the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies and an art studio space.

According to Kent Dyer, the College’s chief business officer, the building has progressed nicely. Despite some supply-chain issues, the project has remained on budget and on time. Commenting on the new building, Dyer stated, “The three-story Parkway Boulevard Building will feature more than 20,000 square feet of student programming and academic space where key college divisions and programs will facilitate connections among faculty, staff, students and the community.” In addition, the building is focused on being eco-friendly, with “the Parkway Boulevard Building [being] one of the most environmentally sustainable buildings in higher education, with students and faculty in the sustainability studies program providing feedback during the initial planning for the project. The building is being constructed as one of the first 20 projects in the world to pursue the Living Building Challenge CORE certification—the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment.”

Photo courtesy of Eva Bartholomew ′24

The construction site of the new building is coming along.

The Seegers Union expansion still has a lot of planning to undergo before breaking ground, and the College has not yet hired an architect for the project. However, the initial schematic drawing outlining what the building will look like has been completed, boasting an exciting update for the main building on campus. Talking about the project, Dyer stated, “The ambitious 42,065-square-foot expansion of Seegers Union will include not only versatile classroom and gathering spaces, a relocated Office of Alumni Affairs and a major events space, but also an enhanced Career Center—one specially adapted to help students and alumni achieve success in their careers or graduate studies.”

Lastly, Dyer addressed the new raises in tuition stating, “The tuition increase has nothing to do with these projects.”

Students are excited for these new projects. One student, who is in the innovation and entrepreneurship program, is especially looking forward to the Parkway Boulevard Building, saying,“The current classroom is super cramped and you can’t really do work there; it is currently a glorified closet that is being called a ‘big space.’ There are tons of random boxes in the already cramped classroom, and as a result we are not able to use the available machines or tools to design prototypes, which is an integral part of the class. The new space will be a lot better because we will be able to use more tools and machines, making it easier to create better prototypes and actually design things.”

Aleah Pelech ‘23 is excited about the Seegers expansion saying, “It’s a very small college so any kind of expansion is good for increasing student services. The new pre-health and pre-law advising offices are a great addition to campus because they are important programs on campus.”

Red light, green light, Yellow Phase

By Cydney Wilson
Managing Editor

Photo by Sruti Sailam ‘23

The return back to the Yellow Phase means that masks are required indoors.

At 8:34 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 5, the Muhlenberg community received an email that there has been a surge in COVID cases in the past two weeks. This surge has resulted in the College making the decision to return to the Yellow Phase of the masking policy, which began on Apr. 6. This phase requires masks indoors except when actively eating and drinking and gives discretion to faculty and staff members in classroom settings and private offices. Masks are not required in residence halls, and the email states that there is "Some flexibility with regard to meetings as well as rehearsals and performances for student clubs and organizations."

Dean of Students Allison Williams shared, "Since Friday, there have been 15 new cases of COVID-19 among students and three new cases among faculty and staff."

Many students have shared frustrations that the College ever moved to the Green Phase, which allowed for flexible masking at the discretion of each individual and of faculty members in classroom settings. There was heightened concern surrounding the decision to move to the Green Phase just prior to spring break.

"We shouldn't be moving back into the Yellow Phase because we never should have left it in the first place," expressed Marissa Scharf ‘24.

Emily Burns ‘22 shared, "I have yet to fully grasp the College's reasoning as to why we didn't move to the Yellow Phase right when students returned to campus after traveling elsewhere for spring break, which could have potentially prevented this outbreak."

Asher Clissold ‘22 echoed similar sentiments, saying, "It was silly, very silly, of the school to repeal the masking mandate in the first place, especially around the time of spring break and St. Patrick's Day, considering those are high volume, for travel, for parties. And those kinds of things obviously lead to higher rates of cross contamination."

A major point of concern, which has frustrated students since the beginning of the semester, is the lack of available testing. The email sent to students explicitly stated that, "Free COVID-19 tests are still available to all students at the Health Center and at the Student Information Desk in Seegers Union."

Eitan Gitlin ‘25 went to the Student Information Desk just after receiving this email and said, "The school should give out more free tests. In the email they said that they were going to give out free tests. I don't know if it starts tomorrow, but I went and they don't have any."

The Weekly confirmed that no tests were available at the Student Information Desk at the time the email was sent out.

Overall, students seem satisfied with the decision to shift back to the Yellow Phase amidst rising cases. Clissold shared, "I'm glad they're putting the masking policy back, because we are seeing an uptick in cases... We could have prevented this from happening if they kept the masking mandate here in the first place. But they didn't around a time like spring break. I think it was kind of ignorant."

Alex Wagner ‘22, Rylee Hooftallen ‘22 and Scharf all expressed a belief that the College should stick to one masking policy to prevent confusion.

Wagner said, "I feel like the school should just stick to one policy, one phase and just stick through it because if we go back and forth between policies it's gonna really frustrate a lot of people, and a lot of people are going to be confused and it's going to cause even more skepticism of the pandemic, of COVID, of vaccines... I feel like the school should just stick to one, own their decision and follow through. That's the best they can do right now."

"Their wishy-washy stance on masking protocols delegitimizes any and all mask mandates moving forward. I'm feeling very frustrated right now," said Scharf.

Hooftallen added, "With the weather getting nicer, there's been an uptick of people coming to visit our campus. And since we don't have these masking policies, students are just walking around potentially infecting potential students and then potential students are also infecting us because we are all unmasked just walking around."

Anna Riordan ‘23 said, "I'm not surprised about the uptick in cases following spring break and just more activities on campus. I'm glad they're listening to the data, to the science, to protect students."

Gitlin shared his thoughts on the shift, saying, "I thought it was a smart choice. I know in the last weekend I've had a lot of people that I know test positive for COVID, and I think especially with going home for the holidays—both Easter and Passover—it was the right choice especially for people who have to travel far distances."

Megan Lyttle ‘23 said, "I hope that students continue to be safe and conscientious and that it truly does not get worse."

"While the Lehigh Valley area was looking better these past few weeks, Muhlenberg failed to remember that we are a part of a larger, global community," shared Scharf. "The BA.2 variant has been wreaking havoc in Germany, Denmark, China, and in other countries across the world. Clearly, it was inevitable that it would reach us here in the U.S. Their negligence regarding this variant has been disappointing, disheartening and dangerous."

From **Senate** page 1

them. Kenyatta pointed out Lamb's more conservative leanings, saying, "As much as we talk about John [not] being here and being accountable, we should talk about the fact that you [Lamb] voted for things that are completely out of the mainstream of where Democrats are, and you've cut a very conservative record in Congress. Including voting for funding for Trump's border wall. Your first term in Congress, actually, you voted with Trump 70% of the time." Lamb rebutted stating, "It's amazing, for such a passionate Democrat, you [Kenyatta] campaign just like the Republicans... that is not a true number." Lamb explained his reasoning behind voting to fund the Mexican border wall declaring, "The fact is, the government was shut down over the border wall because we didn't give Trump the money."

Kenyatta was not the only one to bring up Lamb's more right-leaning votes. Outside of Seegers Union, a group of individuals from Pennsylvania's chapter of the Sunrise Movement, a political action group with a focus on climate change, came with Conor Lamb posters. When the Congressman came to take a photo with the group, they flipped their signs, revealing signs with the phrases, "This guy voted with Trump 70% of the time," and "Republican in ‘lamb's clothing.'"

Students that attended the debate expressed their opinions of the candidates. Issac Shulman ‘25 stated, "I liked both Conor Lamb and Malcolm Kenyatta. Malcolm Kenyatta was a great speaker but I really appreciated how Conor Lamb has and would be willing to work across the aisle to get things done. When Kenyatta pressed Lamb on one specific time where he voted against party lines, Lamb was able to give a solid reason to back up his decision."

Eitan Gitlin ‘25 gave his opinion on the overall event saying, "I think that the debate was an interesting opportunity that Muhlenberg was able to provide for us. As someone who is not from the area, I was able to learn more about PA politics and who was running to represent PA in DC. I was also lucky enough to help out which gave me the cool opportunity to meet important people in government from around the area.

Grace Oddo ‘22 expressed her admiration of the candidates' civility saying, "I admired that although both candidates differed on plenty of topics, they were never disrespectful or nasty towards one another – I can't say the same about our previous administration. I also enjoyed engaging with my fellow Muhlenberg students in discourse surrounding the debate and the candidates – it's heartwarming to see that so many of my peers are enthusiastic and engaged about the civic process."

The primary election is coming up on May 17 and the midterms are on Nov. 8. Make sure to register to vote by May 2 in order to be able to vote in the primary election. If you will be leaving campus after the conclusion of final exams, make sure to request an absentee ballot. Contact @bergvotes on Instagram or bergvotes@gmail.com with any questions.

Campus Notes Continued

responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

03/29/2022
Leh Street: Report of suspicious activity, area checked, individuals spoken to, no further incident.

03/31/2022
Chew Street: Report of fire alarm from use of hair curler, system silenced and reset.
Seegers Union: Report of fire alarm from roof vent, system silenced and reset.
Prosser Hall: Report of found wallet, owner later retrieved item.

04/01/2022
Seegers Union: Report of theft of sneakers, investigation to continue.
Chew Street: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

04/03/2022
Off Campus Location: Report of noise complaint, upon arrival nothing could be noted, residents spoken to, no further incident.
Chew Street (2400 BLK): Report of suspicious activity, area checked, individuals spoken to, no further incident.

"Human beings are born with the instinct to express themselves through movement. Even before he could communicate with words, primitive man was dancing to the beat of his own heart." - Bob Fosse

A cappella is keeping it busy

A cappella groups perform back-to-back events

Photo courtesy of Marco Calderon / Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Zach Rabishaw '22 and Simone Kaye '24 hosting AcFest.

By Johnny Veglia & Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editors

Muhlenberg is home to a wide variety of a cappella groups, and they have been delighting the Muhlenberg community with two electric events. A Cappella Fest, which was held for the first time in three years on Mar. 27, and Song Swap, held on Apr. 2, were ways for the groups to have fun and also showcase their wide array of talents.

Zachary Rabishaw '22, the president of The A Cappella Council (ACC), served as the host of A Cappella Fest and introduced the groups from both on and off campus. "A Cappella Fest is a yearly Muhlenberg tradition where the six Muhlenberg a cappella groups are joined by visiting groups from neighboring schools. We were so excited to bring AcFest back to campus after 3 years, and it was such an exciting evening! We were joined by the Mar-Keys from Lafayette College and the Lehigh Echoes from Lehigh University, and both groups blew us away with their performances," declared Rabishaw.

The event allowed for groups to interact and mingle while showcasing their talents and fun dynamics.

Rabishaw continued, "All in all it was such a heartwarming experience bringing this event back to campus in full swing, and the show could not have gone better."

Jacob Forman '24, a member of the Dynamics, mentioned, "It's great to see all these groups come together, including outside people, for a night of music. It makes you realize that even though we all come from different walks of life, music is a universal language!"

"All in all it was such a heartwarming experience..."

The six a cappella groups on campus also participated in Song Swap. The first component of the event was a traditional performance by the groups and then the second was the opportunity for them to switch it up and have some lighthearted fun with parody and jokes.

Decided by ACC, the pairings for the night included Noteworthy and the Acafellas, the Chaimonics and CODA, and the Dynamics and InAcchord. Each pair was expected to host a collaborative rehearsal, where the groups would take turns teaching one another a song of their partner group's choice from their repertoire.

After that, the groups would return to regularly-scheduled weekly rehearsals, in which each one would secretly decide on a "bit," or relevant joke of some kind to include as a complement to their performance of their partner group's song.

"As a member of Noteworthy, we know that everyone wants to do something silly with '21 Guns,'" said Allison Mintz '23. "I was weary to see how the Fellas would treat our precious Green Day ballad, but I have to admit, their 'one gun' parody knocked it out of the park."

"I was so happy to finally get to experience an a cappella song swap, as only the class of 2022 was on campus the last time one happened," explained Mintz. "While I obviously loved the goofy parodies of each group's signature songs, I also really enjoyed the first part of the event, where each group got to sing one song from their own repertoire. A lot of us came out the gate with songs we don't normally perform at gigs; it gave some different folks chances to shine and provided me with some new favorite performances."

"Rocky Horror" postponed

By Ian Clark
Asst. A&C Editor

Last semester's performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" revived a long-standing tradition here at Muhlenberg. Performances of "Rocky" used to be an anticipated event every semester but it was all brought to a halt because of COVID. Last semester, these performances were revived by Cailyn Murray '23, Sandy McInerney '23 and Chloe Selover '22 with an amazing first performance of the school year during Halloween weekend with the circus-themed "Rocky Horror Big Top Show." Now, the Rocky Horror Club is planning their follow-up performance for the spring semester, this time themed around cowboys, entitled the "Rocky Hoedown Picture Show." The club was on track to perform this Friday, April 8th, but was brought to a screeching halt by a surge of COVID-19 cases that has been sweeping the Muhlenberg community in the last week.

Cases have been springing up over the past few days following the College's shift from required indoor masking with the transition from the Yellow Phase to the completely mask-optional Green Phase. Although cases were falling and Lehigh County moved into a "Low Transmission" level, it seems this small moment of relaxation gave way for cases to rise once again, leading the College to move back to the Yellow Phase the same Tuesday evening after the postponement was announced.

After the news of the postponement broke, "Rocky" cast member Anna Item '25 commented, "I was definitely sad about 'Rocky' being postponed because it's so close to the performance that I was getting really excited. On the other hand, I'm happy that we're making the responsible decision... It's important to me that we make careful decisions and do what is safest for everybody... I would have felt anxious about cramming so many people into the Red Door for the performance, and it's always nice to have more time to nail those dances!"

"I'm sad, I was really looking forward to it," said newcomer to "Rocky" Charlotte Alexander '25. "It's better safe than sorry. Everyone's health is paramount, and I'm glad steps were taken to ensure people's safety. And we are very lucky we still get to do it in May. We could have

See **Rocky** page 7

″In Motion″ premieres with a eclectic movement of choreography

Photo courtesy of Marco Calderon / Muhlenberg Theatre and Dance

Some of the dancers who participated in ″In Motion.″

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

From Mar. 31 to Apr. 2, the Muhlenberg Department of Theatre & Dance presented “In Motion,” the spring semester’s dance showcase. Featuring the work of faculty and guest artists, as well as over seventy students, the choreography and presentation provided ethereal, powerful moments. A variety of different dance styles, including ballet, modern and tap were featured.

The project was led by co-artistic directors Heidi Cruz-Austin, visiting assistant professor of dance, and Karen Dearborn, professor of dance, and featured the work of costume designer Rebecca Lustig, assistant professor of costume design, lighting designer Leslie Lura-Smith and stage manager Josh Ackerman ‘22.

The faculty and guest artists featured in “In Motion” included Cruz-Austin, Dearborn, Assistant Professor of Dance Megan Flynn, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance Natalie Gotter, Guest Artist Frederick Earl Mosley, Assistant Professor of Dance Randall Anthony Smith and Visiting Lecturer Robyn Watson.

Watson’s piece, titled “Moving Moods,” opened “In Motion,” and tackled issues of colonialism in the context of the evolution of tap over the past four hundred years, featuring twelve performers and “Search for the New Land” by Lee Morgan, “He Ran All the Way” by Bobby McFerrin and “B.B.B.B.” by Leon Parker.

Next was “Silhouettes of Solace,” which was choreographed by Flynn and featured dramaturgical work by Allison Mintz ‘23, in addition to the work of the company of performers on stage. The piece featured a navigation of relationships and personal narratives using “Memory of a Time” by Jane Antonia Cornish, “Reminiscence” By Justina Jaruševičiūtė and “Weight of a Nation” by Danny Mulhern as a musical foundation.

Cruz-Austin’s piece, “Magazine,” was unique because it featured the talents of musician Holly Roadfeldt, who underscored the piece with five movements of piano music from various collections by Frédéric Chopin. The second and fourth movements featured solos by Kayla Grammerstorf ‘23, Gracie Dal Bon ‘25 and the other three featured the full cast.

Smith presented “R.A.I.N.B.O.W. (Remember All Individuals Need Blessings Over War),” which featured “In the Shadow of the Colossus” by Nobuo Uematsu, “Ruins” by Ryo Yamazaki, “Trajectory” by Yasunori Mitsuda and “Navigator’s Glory,” also by Uematsu.

“As a cast member of R.A.I.N.B.O.W., this process has been one filled with community, love and joy. Randall [Smith] fostered a rehearsal space that prioritized acceptance and encouragement; the outcome on the Empie stage was something magical and that the audience will not forget,” said Lily Knowles ‘23.

Following a brief intermission was Dearborn’s piece, choreographed in collaboration with the dancers, titled “Embers.” The musical foundation was “Lift – Part III,” by Paul Wiancko, performed by the Aizuri Quartet. The piece and its instrumentation focused on creating a soundscape, and this mesmerizing quality captivated the audience, and helped to progress the story of the piece.

“Keep Driving,” by Boy Harsher, “Not This Time,” by Andy Stott, and “Yü-gung (Fütter mein ego),” by Einstürzende Neubauten were used by choreographer Gotter, in collaboration with a smaller cast of dancers in the piece, to convey a story of choice in the context of turn-of-the-twentieth-century struggles with freedom of expression.

The performance finished with a “Running Spirits,” by Mosley, which included “Rain,” “A Day a Gorilla Gives a Banana,” and “1919,” by Ryuichi Sakamoto. The piece also featured the work of Dearborn, who acted as rehearsal director, and had a large cast, at twenty total dancers.

“‘In Motion’ was truly breathtaking to watch,” said Ozlyn Smith ‘22, who served as house manager of the production. “The pieces that dancers performed in were filled with passion and love which made it all the more powerful to watch.”

“Never underestimate the importance of live art,” explained Ethan Lynch ‘22, a performer. “I was so happy to be back onstage. Being back in a solid rehearsal process also helped solidify and create so many new and existing friendships. It was really an amazing process.”

Sarah Wedeking ‘24 shared, “It was a truly transcendent experience. It was my first time watching a dance show at ‘Berg, and the energy of the dances made me realize not only how talented our community is, but how beautiful and magical dance is.”

From **Rocky** page 5

been told it was canceled, but we get another shot at it. Either way, everyone’s safety is the most important thing, ‘Rocky’ or no ‘Rocky.’”

The tradition of “Rocky Horror” extends far outside Muhlenberg. Starting in 1975, with the release of the movie, an adaptation of the highly successful stage show, “The Rocky Horror Show.” Although the stage show was met with great critical success, the same cannot be said for the movie. The concept of “Rocky” started as a reference to old sci-fi and horror B-movies in the early days of Hollywood so the jump to the screen made perfect sense; however, the film faltered critically and financially, giving executives the idea to revive “Rocky” through midnight screenings. This turned out to be the perfect decision as following midnight screenings in New York, “Rocky” fever spread like wildfire, growing into a worldwide fanbase that still exists to this day, turning “Rocky” into a cult classic phenomenon.

Performances of “Rocky” are sure to always be fun events. Traditionally, the screenings always begin around midnight with an audience of first-time viewers dubbed “Rocky Virgins” or veteran “Rocky” fans that may even go as far as to come in costume. Screenings are almost always accompanied by a shadow cast acting and lip syncing as the characters in front of the movie screen. This is then met with callbacks from the audience, making fun of characters or plot or making cultural references, setting the “Rocky” experience far from any typical movie viewing experience.

Item continued, talking about her love for “Rocky,” “It’s really nice to have a community where we can be silly and celebrate a movie that’s extremely gay and camp. It’s a very liberating, comfortable, low-stress environment and a great way to slowly get back into theatre after not acting for so long due to quarantine!”

Cast member June Tejada ‘22 commented, “I’m a little relieved because it′s a very busy week.” This extension allows for better enjoyment of the performance for the cast members and audience. Tejada continued, “With the big band and choir performances this week, it’s kinda nice having a little time to breathe.”

Although the Rocky Horror Club has been working hard to put this performance on all semester, this isn’t the end. The cast will continue to practice and overcome any challenges they face as more info about the COVID outbreak comes in.

Another cast member, Alena Craig ‘24, had a positive outlook, “‘Rocky’ has been great this semester and continues to be a light in the darkness. It is too bad that it is being moved, but I think more people will be able to see it on May 6.”

Chamber Choir and Treble Ensemble join together

Photo by Rebecca Clark '23

The Egner Memorial Chapel, the place where the concert took place.

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

This past weekend, the Egner Memorial Chapel hosted a choir performance to celebrate choral sounds from around the world. There were a total of eight different languages sung during the concert by the two choral groups.

"I had so much fun performing on Saturday [Apr. 2]. The Chamber Choir and Treble Choir [Ensemble] performed together and complemented each other beautifully, it was so special to be able to share music with each other in a personal way," stated Isabelle Peters '24, a member of Chamber Choir.

The Treble Ensemble and the Chamber Choir switched off throughout the musical night. This added movement and flow to the concert as the two choirs presented "The Choral Music of Northern Europe and Ibero-America."

"It's always so amazing to sing with so many other talented individuals at Chamber Choir concerts, but getting to collaborate with the Treble Ensemble made this concert so special; I loved supporting them and feeling their support," stated Anna E. Bobok '23, member of Chamber Choir.

The concert was also not in English and the program did not feature any notes or analysis. This decision was made to allow the music to speak for itself. Audience members took away their own interpretations of the songs with the translated lyrics in the program and the beautiful performances by the groups of performers.

The Egner Memorial Chapel welcomed students from across Muhlenberg's campus for the performance. The wonderful acoustics of the space only helped to highlight the lyrics and beautiful voices of the two choirs.

"It was amazing to perform in the chapel. I performed in the chapel before but this concert felt different. We all felt really connected this semester, and you could feel it in the music," stated Kailani Reis '24, a member of Treble Ensemble.

"Egner was the perfect location for this performance because of its acoustics due to the tall ceilings and stone walls. The sounds just echo and reflect off of everything to add so much depth and dimension to the experience," stated Rebekah Ayre '24, an audience member.

Select performers from the choirs even traveled through the corridors of the church. This allowed for the songs to act as a call for all to join and for the entire space to be collected in the global and connective music of the different cultures.

Peters declared, "Performing in the chapel is so amazing, the acoustics bounce around the entire room!"

This added a powerful enhancement of the hard work done by the singers.

"Singing in other languages is hard, the most important thing is pronunciations and the way things are spelled in different languages means multiple pronunciations for a similar word so it is really important to put reminders on the page," continued Reis. "One of our songs requires us to say a lot of words in a short amount of time and that was super challenging."

Peters shared a similar sentiment, saying, "Singing in so many languages was a challenge but also pushed me so much more as a musician. Being able to sing in other languages is such a unique opportunity, especially from all different parts of the world."

The choir was guided by Christopher Jackson, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of choral and vocal studies. Vincet Trovato, lecturer and staff accompanist, served as the pianist for the choral performance as well. Jackson served as the conductor and introduced the songs highlighted during the concert and how there were no program notes to allow for the music to speak for itself.

"I can't thank Dr. Jackson enough for all of his hard work in getting us prepared for this semester," stated Peters.

Jackson also mentioned a funny story from a previous conversation with Curtis Dretsch, a previous Muhlenberg faculty member of the theatre department. Jackson stated how Dretsch hates modern choir music, but Jackson's concerts allow for him to find the music decent, and for Dretsch to even like it.

Ayre said, "I actually love that none of the songs were in English. I'm a language nerd at heart, and I think we deprive ourselves of the opportunity for so much amazing art by focusing only on the language we understand."

"I hope the audience took away an appreciation for the music. I wanted them to be able to close their eyes and soak in the sounds, and I hope many of them allowed the chords to carry them away," concluded Reis.

Photo courtesy of Piper Woods '23

The cast of "Rocky Horror Picture Show" last semester.

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Muhlenberg College's COVID mitigation

Clean air on campus? More precious than you think...

By Nic Savo & Noah Pietila
Contributing Writers

Clean air. The most precious resource in the midst of a pandemic. But how clean is the air that you are breathing on campus?

SUS-365, otherwise known as Local Sustainability, is a sustainability class taught by Kim Heiman, Ph.D. The course is designed to shed light on sustainability efforts on campus and in the surrounding areas. Within the first month of class, a project was introduced to tackle important issues on campus. This project was based on Muhlenberg's own COVID mitigation techniques.

The project began with a tour from members of Plant Operations, including Jim Bolton, director of Plant Operations, exhibiting the campus's most important mechanical and structural areas. The tour resulted in a desire to investigate further into the heating, ventilation, and air condition (HVAC) systems on campus. What actions are being taken to ensure safety of students and staff regarding HVAC systems?

Muhlenberg Plant Operations started their process with spraying all the vents with Vital oxide, a cleaning and disinfecting agent. Next, Muhlenberg upgraded their air filters from the Merv 8 to the Merv 13. The Merv is a high quality air filter for residential and commercial buildings. It filters out bacteria, mold and other microscopic particles. Merv 13 is the highest quality. In total, 120 filters were upgraded. The Merv 8 cost $1 per filter change. The Merv 13 costs $12 more per filter change.

Since 2017, Muhlenberg has increased their number of filter changes per year. In 2017, the air filters were changed 1.2 times a year. 2020-2022 Muhlenberg upgraded to 2 filter changers per year. The more filter changes, the more money spent on filters.

Filters are designed to last 12 months but are replaced every six months. Bolton claims he does this because he would "not be able to live with knowing someone got hurt from a very avoidable thing." It may cost more, but it is necessary.

Muhlenberg experienced an 8-24% energy increase. This is expected from the use of better filtration and outside air requirements. The science labs run on 100% outside air, making them the most filtrated areas on campus. The cycling increased from about 6 times a day to about 10.

There are many concerns with how Muhlenberg uses their funding. People claim that the funding is used in ways that are not helpful for the students and staff. This is only looked at from half of the picture. These claims are made about the visible. But, what about behind the scenes, the work and upgrades made to provide safety to staff and students that go unnoticed?

The air quality on campus is significantly better than it was pre-COVID. The cost is more for filter changes, filter changes are more frequent resulting in more waste, and the energy usage has increased. Negative consequences include increased maintenance which consists of cleaning of the HVAC equipment. Vital oxide is used to clean the coil and vents, along with general repairs.

It remains recognized that it is nearly impossible to talk about HVAC systems without mentioning all of the steps that go into it. Actions that could be taken to help the sustainability of these steps are simply reducing energy usage. Markedly, that sounds like a cliché call to action but, all of the changes deem themselves necessary in order to assure the safety of students and staff. Right now, breathing clean air is the most important aspect of our daily lives.

* * *

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Staff Writer

Hey, besties! Welcome to this week's edition of Paige's Page! I hope you are all having a fantastic week. I'm going to be super honest, I really thought about going out with a bang and ending Paige's Page after shoving it down my Instagram follower's throats last week. But you will not get rid of me that easily, and that's a guarantee! This week, we're going to be talking about motivation. I have been struggling with this recently because we are at that point in the semester where nothing feels urgent, but very much is. Also, I know mother nature doesn't read Paige's Page, but I think I can speak for everyone when I say that it needs to be warmer outside. We've had a few nice days, but I can't romanticize Muhlenberg and do homework outside in this weather. Anyways, let's get started!

Q

Hey, Paige! Ever since I got taken off of leadership in this club I am in, I find it weird to go because the new leadership people have my old role. It feels selfish but I just feel weird about being there now. How do I get over that?

Hi, bestie! I love this question a lot because it is something that I have had to deal with all of this past semester. As many of you know, I have entered my not busy era, all of my terms have ended, and I am learning to stop and appreciate the things going on around me. I am also using this time to try new things. It is really hard to watch other people do your old jobs. I know, personally, that I can be really judgemental, and seeing other people do things I would have maybe done differently can be frustrating. That being said, life goes on even after we stop doing things. Moving forward is inevitable. You don't have to go to this club anymore, but the reason you started going in the first place is probably that you enjoyed the work they did, what the club stands for, the people in the club and more. Maybe try going to a club program or going to a meeting with a friend! If you need to take a step outside, having someone that is there for you can be incredibly helpful in helping you to find your footing in this space again. I hope that you can get past this because the club can only benefit from your passion, even if it is not in a direct leadership-focused way.

Q

Hi Paige, I am having a difficult time this semester trying to find the motivation to do anything. For instance, the morning before I wrote this it took an extreme amount of energy to even get out of bed. What would you suggest I do?

Hey, bestie! I'm so sorry this is happening! I really feel this, getting out of bed in the morning is honestly the hardest part of my day every day. The way that I force myself to get out of bed most mornings is by scheduling meetings or other plans for when I want to get up. For example, on Mondays, I have a meeting at 9 am every week. Tuesdays, I have brunch with my little at 10 (hi Felicia). Every other Thursday, I have therapy at 10. On Fridays, I have class at 9. These time markers help me and force me to start my day, because once I start, I am up for the day until I can lay in my bed again. I also have somewhat motivating ways of getting myself to do assignments. I have to read a book every week for one of my classes and, though I am a pretty fast reader, this is the worst thing in the world for me. I read for 30 minutes and give myself a break for 10 minutes. This has been helpful to me because those 10 minutes can be the best 10 minutes in the world if you really savor them. I also have managed to be able to do a little over a chapter in those 30 minutes so the book can really fly by. Giving yourself opportunities to have a break is so important in keeping on. Another thing I would say is trying to give yourself one exciting activity or a fun little treat every day so that you have something to look forward to. I find myself a lot of the time just waiting for the next day or the next week, and I have learned (by being reminded constantly that I am graduating soon) to make every day special. Stopping to smell the roses a little bit is good for you. You can do this, I promise.

Q

Hi Paige, how do you handle being kind in this cruel world?

Hey, bestie! I don't know why you think I'm kind. I know this is not helpful, but this is not relatable content. Hope this answered your question!

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Listen Loudly

...

A creative space for marginalized voices

ode to time

By Tania Jaramillo (*She/Her*)
Contributing Writer

please slow down.
don’t you ever get tired of moving so fast?
how does it feel to never run out of breath?
never having to stop to catch your breath?
always at the front of the finish line.
the rest of the galaxy trying to keep up with you.
the rest of the world working on your time.
inconsiderate of human time.
who made you anyway?
who said 24 hours of you in one day?
what if i wanted 88 hours in one day?
88 hours in one day.
could you give me that?
or could you pause so i could catch up and
then start again?
it feels like i’m racing with you
but the race never ends
and you speed so far away
i can’t even see a speck of you
before i remember that
i work on your time.
you teach me nothing lasts too long,
nothing lasts as long or as short as i want.
only you call the shots.
you decide how long the good and bad things last.
please time speed the bad times up and slow the good times down.
we don′t get enough of each.

Photo courtesy of flickr.com/tonivc

Photo by Maria Castillo ′24

the flower

By Maria Isabel Castillo (*She/Her*)
Contributing Writer

I hope that they don’t rip you apart to where there is nothing left

may they touch me delicately and love me tenderly
I sit and you wonder..why?
so many have gone through my layers just to leave me naked.
sitting pretty is what it is made out to be
why did you choose to leave now?
after all, it took me so long for me to bloom for you
eventually I’d grow back again
standing tall and pretty
this flower could be seen by a whole city
when all it wants is to be taken care of by you
may they touch you delicately and love you tenderly

I sit and wonder why so many have gone through my layers just to leave me naked..

-maria isabel castillo

And the buzzer sounds!

Muhlenberg students speak about their March Madness experience and how their brackets have been busted this year.

By Dylan Rosenblatt
Staff Writer

The month of March just wrapped up, so March Madness is at the finish line. The annual NCAA Division I Men's College Basketball Tournament, which features 64 teams each playing single-round elimination games, kicked off in mid-March and finished up earlier this week. The NCAA gives 68 teams a bid to the tournament. The tourney is split up into four regions, and each region has teams seeded from one to 16. Eight of the lowest of these 68 teams play an early round known as the First Four to compete to make it to the 64 teams that make up the traditional first round. For this year, the University of Kansas Jayhawks defeated the North University of North Carolina Tar Heels in a thrilling 72-69 game to win the Championship game.

Like most years, the 2022 tournament featured some amazing gamewinners, poster dunks, upset wins, intense games and unpredictable Cinderella stories. March Madness draws a great amount of attention from not only basketball fans but sports fans in general from all over the world. However, there is no bigger attraction to the madness than from college students. And with Muhlenberg being a Division III school and not being featured in the tournament, there is no bias among the student body, leading to many students rooting for different teams across their brackets, usually being the team they picked to win it all.

Jacob Klaff '24, a diehard University of Alabama sports fan, spoke about the disappointing result his team had in the tournament, losing in the Round of 64 to Notre Dame despite being ranked as six seed. "It was definitely not an enjoyable moment. Watching our best player, Jahvon Quinerly, tear his ACL in the first few minutes of the game was a horrible feeling. Once it was said that he was out for the game it just went downhill from there. Hopefully next year the team can rebound from a down year and make a better run at the championship in 2023," said Klaff.

Despite Klaff's team being eliminated in the first round, he spoke about how he was still able to enjoy the tournament saying, "I think college basketball, specifically March Madness, is one of the best parts of being a sports fan, as well as it being arguably the best few weeks as a sports fan every year. Even with 'Bama being eliminated early on, making my bracket with all of my friends is always a great and competitive time. The trash talking when your bracket is doing well is always amazing, however, when your bracket is doing poorly, hearing your friends chirp you can get nerve-racking. However, it's all a part of the tournament which makes it so enjoyable. Watching the Saint Peter's run this year was awesome as well, especially as a New Jersey native."

As Klaff spoke about, the story of the tournament was the Cinderella story run of Saint Peter's University; a 15 seed who were able to reach the Elite Eight, the first time a seed that low has progressed that far in the tournament. Men's basketball forward Brandon Goldberg '24 spoke about how the historic run of Saint Peter's amped him up for the Mules' season next year. "Seeing the Saint Peter's team do what they did created excitement for our team's season next year. It's been two months since our season came to a close, and watching a school with around the same undergraduate population as us go to the Elite Eight gave me high hopes for the season next year. And even though we're a Division III school, there's no reason we can't go on a run next year and win our tournament."

COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM.COM/NCAA

The Kansas Men's Basketball team victorious after their game.

The National Championship game is always the game that draws the most attention, as it's usually the biggest basketball game of the year in the world and one of the biggest sporting events in general. Isaiah Lobelo '24 spoke on how he watched the game. "Me and all my friends put all of our work and other responsibilities to the side to watch the game. We ordered five pies of pizza, boxes of wings and drinks to our Benfer suite and all sat down and watched the game together. It's rare that the eight of us are all able to chill together, because we all have responsibilities throughout the week, so it was definitely a great bonding moment to have everyone in the room relaxing watching the big game."

With March Madness past the finish line now, it's time to wait for next year, which will hopefully be just as exciting.

The NCAA gives 68 teams a bid to the tournament. The tourney is split up into four regions, and each region has teams seeded from one to 16. Eight of the lowest of these 68 teams play an early round known as the First Four to compete to make it to the 64 teams that make up the traditional first round.

'Berg lax attacks

Women's lacrosse enters conference play 7-1.

By Tom Hiller
Sports Editor

133 to 67. Although these numbers might seem to have no connection to each other, they do hold significance to how the Muhlenberg women's lacrosse team has been performing. The Mules have outscored their opponents (133-67), a point differential of 66. According to NCAA stat records of the season so far, that would place the Mules as the 23rd ranked scoring offense of 283 DIII women's lacrosse teams.

The offensive attack is not spearheaded by just one player. Instead, the Mules rely on a multitude of highly skilled scorers on the roster. Head Coach Kristen Stuckel had high praise for how the offense is able to spread the ball out. "Our driving force behind our success is that our scoring and assists are spread out among many players. Ariella Lerner ['22[leads with the number of goals, but Nicole Steiner ['24], Maddie Dill ['22], Emily Gaffney ['23], Ellsa Peabody ['23] all have great numbers, along with Sam Eynon ['23], who is tied for the most points for goals and assists. Our team also adapts and plays smart as the game progresses."

If a team decides to defensively shut down any of the previously mentioned players, rest assured that the remainder will fill in the void and tally up the scoreboard. That's what Steiner applauds about her team. "The thing I have enjoyed most about our team's success so far this year is the way we play together as a team. Everyone is unselfish, and it doesn't matter which player is the one scoring the goal or making the big play. Many of my goals come from passes from my teammates when I am cutting to the goal. I rely on them to get me the ball in a good spot to score. Lacrosse is truly a team game."

Not only has the offense produced results on a high level, but the defense has essentially been on lockdown this season. The Mules are posted near the top 50 in

See **Lax** page 11

COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Dill '22 catching the ball

enACT what's the sustainabili-TEA?

enACT (Environmental Action Team) is thrilled to initiate our bi-weekly column, providing sustainable action updates on campus!

STARS CERTIFICATION

Before the pandemic, Muhlenberg received the STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) Gold Certification. This self-reporting system promotes transparency around sustainability initiatives for colleges and universities. Due to a lack of reporting data, we did not receive the certification in 2021. Muhlenberg hired a new intern to report the data and we're confident that we will regain gold certification in the fall of 2022.

SYNTHETIC SOCCER FIELD

The Plant Operations department is working to renovate the soccer field north of Walz Hall. Their current plans are to transition our natural grass to a synthetic turf field. Our natural fields account for most of the herbicide use on campus. By making this switch, maintenance will be decreased and herbicide use will be reduced. This will hopefully be completed by the beginning of the fall 2022 semester.

ENACT UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Shabbat @Hillel (April 8th, 6:30pm)
The Lorax Showing w/BookNook + MAC @College Green (April 10th, 8pm)
Bottle Cap Mosaic Creation @CA room 190 (April 13th & 21st, 6pm-8pm)
PennEnvironment Persuasive Letter Writing Workshop @Hillel (April 19th, 7pm-8pm)
Signs of Spring Nature Walk with Biology professor Dr. Lucy Zipf (April 20th, 4pm)
Earth Day chalking on Academic Row (April 21st, 8pm)
EARTH DAY EVENT (April 22nd)

Reach out to enact@muhlenberg.edu for more info!

From **Lax** page 10

scoring defense, helped by the countless hard-nosed defensive players on the team that deserve more recognition than they get. "Defense is a really important aspect of our success and often those players don't get recognized enough," said Steiner.

Stuckel, a second-team All-Central Region defensive player during her playing days at Gettysburg College, has her roots within a defensive identity. So far, Stuckel is pleased with the group's performance on the defensive side of the field. "Our defense has done a top-notch job of becoming cohesive and gritty with upperclassmen Michaela Mosher ['22] and Sarah Duffy ['23] leading the way along with the fast feet of Grace Bruther ['23], helping Missy [Melissa] Pierpont ['25] and Ellie [Ellison] Ervin ['25] step into starting positions."

The Mules have now entered Centennial Conference play on a hot streak, going 7-1 and showing the ability to win in various fashions. In their season opener, versus cross-town rival Moravian College, the Mules managed to defend Scotty Wood Stadium with a close 18-17 victory. After the near loss, the closest win the Mules have is an 18-12 win over Framingham State University, and the rest have been essentially blowouts.

For Steiner, the Moravian game provided needed motivation for herself and the rest of the team. "Our first game of the year when we gave up a big lead but came back to win says a lot about our team. We have kept that attitude throughout the season; not getting down on ourselves and being confident. But in each game when one of our players scores their first career goal or does something great to help the team that moment is exciting also."

When the Mules complete the remaining half of the season, the hopes are they will be sitting on top of the Centennial Conference. Claiming the conference, however, is much easier said than done. Currently, only two out of the ten teams have a record below .500. For Steiner, she is excited to be playing against familiar faces, especially since they will be coming to 'Berg. "We are all really excited for the bulk of our Centennial Conference schedule. Our conference is one of the [best] in Division III Women's Lacrosse. These games are going to be a real test for us. It is great that the majority of the games will be at Scotty Wood Stadium. Playing at home in front of our friends and family and the Muhlenberg community makes it even more meaningful and gives us a big edge."

Brawl at the PPL

University of Michigan and Quinnipiac University's men's ice hockey teams battle it out in NCAA Regional Final.

By Grace Oddo & Matthew Baker-Grunza
Senior Staff Writer and Asst. Sports Editor

For being a city located in northeast Pennsylvania, Allentown sure has a lot of UMich fans.

The energy at and around the PPL Center was electric long before the 6:30 p.m. puck drop. As anticipated, traffic was jammed well up Hamilton Street as families anxiously waited to snag a parking spot in the nearby garage. Although a few people were spotted touting Quinnipiac sweatshirts, they were ultimately drowned out by the flood of blue and maize swallowing up the street. The bright University of Michigan colors added a splash of vibrance to the otherwise dreary Sunday evening. Fans young and old were clearly thrilled to see the Michigan Wolverines take on the Quinnipiac Bobcats in the NCAA Regional Ice Hockey Championship.

After the ice was cleared, the teams lined up for the faceoff eager to play for a spot in the Frozen Four. The Wolverines took no time breaking in the mesh of Quinnipiac's net. With their starting five on the ice and barely half a minute in the legs, Nolan Moyles immediately won the hearts and voices of the maize and blue clad crowd. Max Pinilis '22 who was in the crowd described that "People were cheering in the aisles, as they were still sitting down, popcorn was spilled, drinks were spilled, it was a great time."

After this strong start moved the puck from zone to zone, taking a number of shots that were capably handled by the young keepers of both teams, Wolverine Erik Portillo and Bobcat Yaniv Perets. However, the Wolverines weathered the storm of Bobcat shots and transitioned to offense with five minutes left in the first period.

Once the Wolverines entered the Bobcat zone, Jacob Truscott fired a shot off at Perets, resulting in a save. Just five seconds later, Jimmy Lambert took another shot, putting the Wolverines up 2-0 going into the second period.

The game was unfolding to be a typical struggle between a one and a two seed. The Bobcats were putting up a hard fight, but didn't have the finishing ability of a team that has advanced to the Frozen Four 25 times in their program history. The Bobcats still had an opportunity to win, but the two-goal difference was going to be far more challenging. At the helm of this Wolverine team was Head Coach Mel Pearson. While he has only coached the team for five years, he has already earned his keep. In his very first season as coach, he won a berth to the Frozen Four. Now, as he returned to the quarterfinals he had one goal—maintain the lead.

The Wolverines were given the opportunity to extend this lead seven minutes into the second period. Michael Lombardi was called for hooking and the two minute penalty was exacted. In the first minute of the powerplay, Thomas Bordeleau fired one off to extend the lead to 3-0. After the power play, the second period continued according to the game plan, with the Wolverines widening the margin to 4-0.

Perets had made an admirable effort against the Wolverine offense with 19 saves; however, going into the third period the Bobcats needed a change. They put in graduate student Dylan St. Cyr, a strong defensive choice, since the Bobcats were able to go on a 3-0 run in the first seventeen minutes of the period. The Wolverines felt their hard earned lead crumbling and the pressure mounting. In the words of Miracle on Ice, it was time for the legs to feed the Wolverines. The team put on an astonishing offensive performance in the final three minutes, drilling three shots into the back of the net, and hammering the nail into the Bobcats' coffin.

The event was an electric experience in Muhlenberg's backyard. For the students that got to go there was a conglomeration of all the schools in the valley. According to Pinilis, "It was a great opportunity to socialize with other schools and meet new people."

With this electric win, the Wolverines broke the NCAA record for most Frozen Four berths of all time. The program has made it 26 times to the Frozen Four, and on Apr. 7 they will face off against the University of Denver at TD Garden in Boston.

Courtesy of instagram.com/ncaaicehockey

The Michigan Ice Hockey team celebrating their win.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

A 5th year, or two

By Olivia Oberman
Staff Writer

A common response one may hear when leaving home for college is, “These will be the best years of your life.” The primary goal of attending college is to receive a degree and focus on your academics; however, a lot of students are able to simultaneously use their talents and interests outside of academics to create a very well rounded experience. These experiences usually aid students in their post-graduate successes in more ways than one.

When the world first started to transition back to in-person school following the pandemic, it was done very cautiously, and extracurriculars were brought back even more slowly. Muhlenberg, specifically, tried very hard to get students back on campus, and were successful for a small group of students in fall 2020. However, the other aspects of being a college student, such as meeting your classmates, getting to know your professors and joining clubs, was done through Zoom. Sports was one obvious extracurricular that Zoom could not provide a platform for, so the Centennial Conference called off play for the fall, winter and spring seasons in 2020, while also giving further eligibility to spring athletes of 2021 given their play was limited.

For the classes of ‘20 and ‘21 senior athletes, this meant losing what was supposed to be the peak of their career. For class of ‘24 first-year students, this meant losing what would be their very first season, and for the sophomores and juniors, this meant that they would be cut short in-between. However, for each season missed, the athletes gained another season of eligibility. Some athletes who ended up missing two seasons in the overlap of the pandemic, gained even two seasons of eligibility.

In February 2020, Muhlenberg announced the launch of its first master’s programs in applied analytics and organizational leadership. Some students who were planning to seek a masters elsewhere, saw this as an opportunity to instead recieve it at the same place as their undergraduate degree, and, better yet, use their eligibility to also stay on the roster of their designated athletic teams for another year or two.

Division III All-American honorable mention, first team All-Centennial selection, and one of four current captains of the men’s lacrosse team, Ethan Grossman ‘21, is one athlete who is taking advantage of the two-year masters program and staying put on the men’s lacrosse roster while doing so. He obtained his undergraduate degree in 2021—and having received two additional years of NCAA eligibility he is currently playing in the first of his two post-grad seasons. “I wanted to stay to pursue my masters and also compete to win the Centennial Conference. Being able to play lacrosse for another two years and to compete for a Centennial [Conference] championship has me leaving no regrets.” He continues, “I recommend anyone who gained eligibility play the sport they love for as long as possible.”

Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics Department

Grossman ‘21 running after the ball

Dual athlete in football and lacrosse and All-Centennial honors recipient, Matt Burke ‘21 is also in the first of his two eligible postgraduate seasons while carrying on his lacrosse career, “The main reason for me wanting to stay at Muhlenberg was the family atmosphere and our lacrosse team’s progression throughout the years that I have been here. If I was to go somewhere else I would have no idea what to expect from the school or athletics program. The graduate program here is very flexible and allows you to have freedom while still being able to focus on schooling and sports,” said Burke. “I am definitely happy with my decision and would recommend it to other athletes. The master’s program and sports here are both excellent. Professors are also very flexible with athletics and are willing to work around any schedule conflicts.”

Margaux Eripret ‘22, forward on the womens’ basketball team, led the Mules and was ranked ninth in the Centennial Conference scoring at least 12.0 points per game during the 2022 season. She was named all-Centennial honorable mention and for two consecutive seasons was also named to the Lehigh Valley Small College Basketball Team of the Year. Although she recently wrapped up her senior season, she did it with the relief that it would not be her last.

Eripret shares, “I’m really excited that I get to stay at Muhlenberg and use my COVID year for one last season as I will be starting grad school in the fall. Not getting to play my junior season was really difficult and then my coach told me about a new grad program the school was introducing that he thought I should look into. I spent a lot of time thinking about what I wanted to do; the program [Organizational Leadership] sounds like a good fit for me, and—as an added bonus—I get another season/school year with my friends and one last chance to play for a championship. Because of COVID, I blinked and jumped from a sophomore to a senior, so I wasn’t really ready to be done yet, and I’m really lucky to be able to start my grad classes and last season this fall.”

Several athletes from all types of divisions and conferences have popularly chosen to take their eligibility elsewhere for their next seasons; however, Muhlenberg students seem to be staying put.

Centennial Conference rookie of the year and pre-season All-American Dan Gaines ‘22 has decided to stay for at least one more year, unsure if he will be enrolling in the masters program or not, “I enjoy playing with my teammates and did not want to end my career after a disappointing year and an injury. Also I am comfortable in this environment and feel like I bolster my resume academically on top of basketball. I’d say my goals are to continue to be a leader on the team and hopefully have post season success and win the conference.”

The decision of athletes to continue their fifth year and/or post-grad at Muhlenberg is not only a positive reflection of what the Muhlenberg community has to offer but even more so how committed our students are to representing it passionately. With so much talent returning to athletics, the Mules have a great outlook moving forward- across the board.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Apr. 7 - Apr. 14

Baseball
Muhlenberg vs Dickinson
Fri, Apr. 8 @ 3:30 p.m.
Cedar Creek Field

Men’s Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Franklin & Marshall
Sat, Apr. 9 @ 12:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Softball
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg
Sat, Apr. 9 @ 1:00 p.m.
Cedar Creek Field

Women’s Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Franklin & Marshall
Sat, Apr. 9 @ 3:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The Office of Multicultural Life hosts block party

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022
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Keanna Peña '24 shares a poem.

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SPORTS

Lax builds momentum.

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Resident advisors struggle to feel at home

Photo courtesy of Zaire Carter '22

The RAs in this photo are not affiliated with this article.

By Ally Duvak
Co-news Editor

As a first year at Muhlenberg, your resident advisor is likely one of the first people that you meet on campus. Hall meetings are often one of the initial things that occur after the families leave on move-in day. This means that resident advisors, or RAs, are often the first upperclassmen that first years are acquainted with and therefore their touchstone when it comes to check-ins, seeking advice or when emergencies arise.

But what sort of toll does that take on the students who serve as RAs? What happens when the student body is off-campus in some capacity for almost two years and then abruptly returns to being in-person? This year, as RAs have helped to handle an uptick in struggles for students who aren't acquainted with on-campus life, it has become clear that the position is more than hall meetings and late-night duty rounds. It has the potential to truly impact students' lives—positively and negatively.

"This year has been different because of COVID. And I'm not just talking about keeping up with policies, but our residents, the people have changed," stated Zaire Carter '22, current Hall Director (HD) of Martin Luther Hall (ML), which houses primarily sophomores and juniors. "The sophomores living in ML didn't have the chance to have a full first-year experience. Being able to support our residents was critical to the RA role, even we as an RA team had to think of different ways to support our residents because our residents are different and have changed. It's always a pleasure to be that support resource for someone else, but we have to constantly create ways to support each other."

Caitlin Strain '22, who has been an RA for three years and is the current HD of Walz, has had a similar experience this year. Living in a building that mainly houses first-year students, she has seen firsthand the impact of online learning on the underclassman experience. "Normally, [first years] learn how Muhlenberg works through the upperclassmen," Strain stated. "They hear stories and learn traditions that the student body undertakes, but 3/4 of us haven't experienced them."

How does this lack of on-campus experience impact the student body? It comes down to mental health. Strain went on to say, "This year there were a LOT of mental health issues. More than normal. Across all class years. Trying to transition back to a new normal after two years online has been significantly more difficult than anyone anticipated. Students needed to re-develop their academic, social and emotional stamina."

For an anonymous RA in one of the first year residence halls, this struggle with skill re-development began at the very begin-

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Photo courtesy of Maya Costanzo/Muhlenberg Theatre and Dance

Rosy-Crimson puts a new twist on "The Odyessey"

read on page 6

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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Managing Editor
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Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking
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Layout Editor
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Co-Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza
Co-Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark
Photo Editor
Keanna Peña
Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria
Editorial Assistant

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

04/04/2022
Off Campus Location: Report of suspicious activity, individual identified, investigation to continue.
Walz Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.
26th and Chew Street Parking Lot: Report of vehicle illegally parked with excessive amount of tickets, vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer, boot later removed.

04/05/2022
Seegers Union: Report of disorderly conduct, individuals identified and spoken to, investigation to continue.
Off Campus Location: Report to transport student back to campus.
Walz Hall: Report of fire alarm from use of hair straightener, system silenced and reset.

04/06/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of alcohol violation, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

04/07/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of possession of stolen sign, individual identified and spoken to, sign returned.
Scotty Wood Stadium-Marino Field: Report of noise complaint, upon arrival nothing could be noted, reporting party spoken to, no further incident.
The Village: Report of burning odor, upon arrival resident spoken to, smell was from cooking.
Seegers Union: Report of injured student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student refused further treatment or transport.
Benfer Hall: Report of sick student, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

04/08/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Martin Luther Hall: Report to locate student, student later located.

04/09/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of disturbance, individuals identified and spoken to, referred to Dean of Students office.
Benfer Hall: Report of damage found to window, Plant Operations notified to repair, no suspects at this time.
Baker Center for the Arts: Report of alcohol violation, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

04/10/2022
Chew Street: Report of sick visitor, Allentown EMS responded and transported the individual to hospital.

New at Java Joe: New Bakery Items & Refreshers!
WE PROUDLY SERVE
java joe

″Take Back the Night″ highlights survivors′ experiences

Student organizations work to create a safe space.

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Survivors tell their stories as spectators listen.

On Apr. 6, a “Take Back the Night” event was held on the East Chapel Lawn. This gathering was meant to serve as a dialogue for survivors of sexual violence to share their experience in front of a group of understanding individuals. Several students came forward and shared either through personal spoken statements or written testimonies that were read by a non-student.

The event was primarily organized by staff advisor to the advocacy group Voices of Strength (VOS) and Associate Director of Prevention Education Jules Purnell and intern at the office of prevention education Liora Finkel ‘22. They worked in conjunction with the Crime Victim Council of the Lehigh Valley to facilitate the evening.

Finkel reflected on the impact of the event saying, ″Hearing other people’s testimonies (including those read by a proxy) is incredibly validating. There is a special kind of solidarity amongst survivors of sexual harm... Of course, in an ideal world no sexual harm should ever happen, but since it is such a deeply embedded part of our society, having a space to publicly share our truths feels cathartic.”

Muhlenberg is not the first institution to hold a “Take Back the Night” event. Rather, this has been an ongoing occurrence dating back several decades. Purnell stated, “[In] the 1960s-70s, the so-called second wave of feminism was deeply concerned with sexual violence against women as a major social ill, just as modern feminists are today... The original intent [of the event] was to stand up to sexual violence by proclaiming that women and other minoritized people should not feel intimidated to be out after dark, that no one should be blamed for being victimized simply being where they weren′t ‘supposed’ to be.”

Thus, “Take Back the Night” was created. Muhlenberg has held this occasion at least two other times, with The Weekly finding evidence for a “Take Back the Night” event in 2012 and 2004.

Now, while the overarching message of “Take Back the Night” has shifted, its foundational principles remain the same. Purnell outlined Muhlenberg’s main reasoning behind hosting the discussion saying, “The primary purpose is to offer a space for survivors of sexual violence to be able to speak freely about their experiences without fear of retribution or even being reported to the College or police.”

Due to its subject matter, the night inherently has the potential to become a triggering environment for some. Purnell addressed these concerns and stated what VOS and their office did to combat them. “[Finkel] and I took great care to make sure there was an ample content warning at the beginning of the event, and we met with each speaker to help them decide how to craft their statement. We encouraged each speaker to speak their truth, but to avoid using graphic details so as not to retraumatize those in attendance. We also had members of Counseling Services and Religious and Spiritual Life staff on hand in case anyone at the event was in need of additional support, as well as having both the Egner Chapel and Moyer 101 open as more private spaces students could access to decompress,” said Purnell.

Student speakers and attendees seemed to have had positive reactions to the measures in place. Charlotte McKay ‘24 was a speaker at the event. McKay gave her thoughts stating, “I felt very welcomed and empowered. I was surrounded by people, students and faculty, who were there to uplift and support me and others. I was incredibly nervous to speak because I was going to be sharing a very traumatic experience with a good amount of people, but I was met with kind eyes and supportive arms.”

′Berg discusses Flint Michigan water crisis

By Matthew Baresh
Asst. News Editor

The Minority Pre-Health Society at the College invited pediatrician and health specialist Mona Hanna-Attisha, M.D., for a virtual lecture this past week on Apr. 6. She shared her role in uncovering the water crisis in Flint, Mich. and the new opportunities it gave her in the healthcare field. Hanna-Attisha started her academic career by earning a bachelor’s of public health from the University of Michigan before earning her medical degree at Michigan State University. She was named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World and was granted the Freedom of Expression Courage Award by PEN America for her work in the health crisis. Hanna-Attisha is also the author of “What the Eyes Don′t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City,” in which she reflects on and explains her role in the water crisis in Michigan.

Hanna-Attisha started her lecture by pointing out the root cause of the crisis: the new water source. The pipes used to carry the water from the new source to the city started to corrode, causing high levels of toxic lead to seep into the water. Without pinpointing the cause of origin, it would be impossible to return the drinking water to lower lead levels.

“If we only look at that superficial layer, it’s almost like putting a Band-Aid on that problem and skipping the diagnosis to avoid treatment,” Hanna-Attisha explained. “The real villains are the ongoing effects of racism, inequality, greed, laissez-faire and even neo-liberal capitalism that poisoned Flint and their policies.”

Hanna-Attisha went on to describe the multitude of hardships she faced while initially trying to gather data on the crisis.

“I kept trying to get data from preexisting surveillance systems from the county or state but they did not offer anything and kept closing doors in my face,” she said. “What enabled me to persist through these science data challenges was a constant grounding in asking ‘why.’”

The question of “why” is what kept Hanna-Attisha invested in the Flint water disaster. She answered this question when explaining that she wanted to ensure the safety of her children and others in the area. Injustice in Flint also pushed her deeper to find the resolutions to the pressing issue. Hanna-Attisha’s first line in her book states, “I am Iraqi...” She then built upon her role as a woman of color in the healthcare industry.

“Being a woman of color and an immigrant, I see the world differently and I have a heightened antenna for injustice,” she said. “They are like my super-

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Laurie Stone reads and signs her work

Photo by Sarah Wedeking ′24

By Sarah Wedeking
Layout Editor

Hosted by the English department and creative writing program, award-winning writer Laurie Stone read and discussed some of her work, including unpublished pieces on Thursday, Apr. 7, in Moyer Hall’s Miller Forum. The event also included a book signing.

“The reading was truly amazing,” Cristina Lewis ‘23 said. “Getting to see the vulnerability behind every piece she writes makes it that much better.”

Stone first started with little snippets of her work, shared and published on social media sites like Facebook. She remarked that after being in isolation for so long, she wanted to find a writer community to ease her loneliness.

“She’s admirable in how she’s always experimenting and growing with her writing, breaking down the standards of how to construct a story or connect ideas,” Maggie Guinman ‘25 said.

Stone is also a current visiting professor for a creative writing masterclass at the College. After she read each of three pieces, Stone would turn to her partner, Richard Toon, who would ask her discussion questions about her pieces.

“It was a good setup, but I thought the chairs could be further spaced apart because of the new mask mandate,” Link Shuster ‘24 said. The event occurred two days after the College announced the return back to Yellow Phase masking.

However, the event had a huge emphasis on vulnerability and being able to make someone feel through writing. “Hearing such an intimate side from her as an experienced artist was inspiring and comforting to hear, especially to upcoming writers in the audience,” Guinman said.

“I specifically remember there was a moment where she began to choke up about a part of her life,” Tom Hiller ‘23 said. “It was extremely accepting and vulnerable and I think that’s what writers should do—they should be able to express themselves.”

“The writing is a performance,” Stone remarked at the event. It is one, according

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Crystal Adams
Terri McKnight
Christina Mitry
Dr. Mona

From **Flint** page 3

hero powers.” An anonymous student who attended the lecture commented, “The additional comments she made both in the lecture and in her book about her personal story added to the strong message of what she was doing. This aspect is something I found very interesting because her discussion about culture and history can be related to the current crisis she was witnessing.”

“My favorite part of Dr. Mona’s talk was when she talked about her own personal background, and how coming from a family of Iraqi scientists and dissidents helped her find the courage to speak truth to power,” shared Casey Miller, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology at Muhlenberg. “And more specifically in pursuing her public health advocacy work when her findings were initially dismissed by the State of Michigan.”

Hanna-Attisha presented her data and results of toxic lead levels in the water at multiple press conferences using props, like pipes, so her data would stand out to the policymakers. Despite facing backlash, she persisted and created positive change in the Flint area.

“Dr. Mona’s talk was extremely fascinating and very inspirational,” explained Sara Tabakha ‘22. “Despite not having peer-reviewed evidence, she still used that information to protect the people of Flint, even if there were consequences.”

“Dr. Hanna-Attisha taught me that barriers should not prevent one from accomplishing something, but should fuel your determination,” shared Melissa Borker ‘22. “She said that when the Michigan health department did not release data or when the federal government told her she was causing hysteria, it pushed her to fight even more for her community.”

Hanna-Attisha concluded her lecture with a word of advice for those currently on the pre-health track. She accredited her skills as a good leader to her years in college, reiterating the importance of “the four P’s:” find your passion, find your people, be persistent and be prepared.

She concluded by reciting a Dr. Suess quote from her book by saying, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

“Greek Week” hosted at ’Berg

By Alex Blum
Managing Editor

Last week, from Sunday, Apr. 3 through Thursday, Apr. 7, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Panhellenic Council (Panhel) hosted their annual “Greek Week” event. In a series of competitions among all eight Greek life organizations on campus, events consisted of a banner competition, kickball, a photo scavenger hunt, “Greek Feud” and even “Greek Sing.” Fraternity and Sorority Life’s (FSL) patented “Greek Week” was also highlighted by its philanthropic endeavors, known this year as “Penny Wars.”

The charity event consisted of collecting cash, where each penny and dollar resulted in positive point values added for each Greek organization’s teams, while silver coins like nickels, dimes and quarters resulted in point detractions. The group who had the highest point value (not necessarily the most money) at the end won. The purpose was to raise money for the Ashley Hope Foundation in memory of Delta Zeta sister Ashley Goodman, who passed away from cancer in September 2021.

Unlike in previous years, where there were typically partnerships among the organizations, each group was on its own for the 1980s themed festivities. In fact, the 1980s theme for “Greek Week” was decided on by Alex Caban-Echevarria ‘23, the president of Panhellenic Council, and Jack Younes ‘23, the president of IFC, when thinking about the era of music they enjoyed the most.

According to Caban-Echevarria, “For ‘Greek Sing,’ we wanted everyone to have fun with their song choices, so the theme of the ‘80s came from thinking about the music we liked. To pick their songs, we gave chapters random numbers that correlated to a year within the decade, thus specifying our ‘dancing through the ‘80s’ night.”

While the week was jam-packed with creative events like “Greek Sing,” athletic contests like tug-of-war and Family Feud-style trivia games, this past “Greek Week” was extremely difficult to execute. After hosting the event in a hybrid form in 2021, 2022 was back to being fully in-person.

Natalie Shaw, assistant director of student organizations, leadership & engagement, recognizes the difficulties in planning such an exhaustive event and acknowledges the support she received during the process. “There is a lot of time that goes into making ‘Greek Week’ happen and none of it would be possible without the presidents of IFC and Panhel,” said Shaw.

Although communicating with Greek life leadership is complicated on its own, Shaw admits that navigating the varying weather conditions was perhaps the most difficult task. “The hardest event to execute was kickball due to weather constraints. It is the

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to her, that both entertains and demands the reader to feel. She used to be a theatre critic for The Nation, a writer for The Village Voice and a writer for the radio show “Fresh Air.”

“There was so much hard-hitting stuff,” Milo Obrzut ‘25 said. From talking about her story of a young writer falling in love with a band member in London to her experience with sex, there was a very wide range of material that Stone shared. “Honestly, I thought that she was really cool,” Obrzut said.

Stone has won multiple awards for her work, including the Nona Balakian prize from the National Book Critics Circle and several grants.

“I thought the event was really interesting, and I would love to hear more of her works.” Shuster said.

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ning of this academic year. “The first year area had a horrendous first week and first weekend... [it] was so hard and I feel like it set the tone for the entire semester, which was really hard because it felt like we weren’t being supported as RAs.” This lack of support, in their opinion, originated from the Housing & Residence Life office, otherwise known as HRL. “I’ve had it happen so many times where I’ve gone to HRL and have felt unsupported. Like I didn’t have any leverage. I felt like I had to be perfect all the time.”

Another RA, who also chose to remain anonymous, agreed. “This year has made me consider my future as an RA multiple times, even almost not applying to be an RA again in the following year. They have made the job of an RA more emotionally taxing than it already is, and leaves a lot of holes in the information that is brought to us. I have chosen to be an RA again, but I know that the year ahead will be challenging, especially with a lot of new faces in the department.”

Yet another RA who requested to retain their anonymity echoed this sentiment. “I think taking on an RA job this year was a bit much for me, considering I have yet to experience a real college experience since I arrived here in 2020. I will not be continuing my position.”

“There has been a lot of criticism towards HRL over the last year,” Strain commented. “Many RAs feel disconnected from HRL which is understandable based on how busy everyone is. I personally have a good relationship with [the professional staff] because I work directly with them as an HD. They are incredible people and super supportive and I will personally miss them all so much when I graduate.”

“There are certain people I can trust and go to but as a whole, the [HRL] department needs work,” the first anonymous RA elaborated. “They are so incredibly understaffed that I don’t feel like they are properly prepared to handle all of the stuff that the RAs need from them. We need more professional staff. There cannot be one [professional staff member] on-call person for all RAs. That is not okay. As the administration, maybe you should be thinking about hiring more HRL staff to support our 70+ RAs that are doing us a service because RAs are the ones on the front lines. There are people there that I love so dearly but they need some help because they’re losing the faith of the RAs.”

A different anonymous RA agreed. “Being an RA this year has been more difficult and draining than I ever expected. I love my residents and being a support system for them, but it’s hard to find a balance between being an RA and maintaining your own boundaries,” they said. “ I really hope to continue being an RA, but I have been faced with the difficulty of balancing my own mental health with my role as an RA. If these issues continue, I think we’re going to see a lot more RAs step down in order to take care of themselves.”

The Muhlenberg Weekly

/ARTS & CULTURE

"Art is never finished, only abandoned."

- Leonardo da Vinci

A day full of music, dance and cotton candy!

Photo by Keanna Peña '25

The Mayhem Step Team performed along with visitng performances from Albright College. The performers are: Sidney Caruth '23, Matt McCray '24, Desiree Oliver '25, Jordan West '23, Patricia Madrigal '25, Keanna Peña '25, Imany Zorrilla '23.

By Ian Clark
Asst. A&C Editor

As Muhlenberg was greeted with warm weather, along with it came a busy past weekend filled with many incredible events. The Muhlenberg community greeted accepted and incoming students with Through the Red Doors, and the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA) put on their semesterly Studios productions. On Saturday afternoon, the Office of Multicultural Life held a block party on Chew Street that was immediately followed by the "Who's The Boss" Mayhem Step Team showcase in Seegers Union.

Despite facing minor hiccups from the weather, the block party trucked on, providing fun for attendees throughout the afternoon. When walking down Chew Street, attendees could hear the music and excitement all the way from Seegers.

People ran around with water guns, played hopscotch, basketball or just danced to the music and watched the student performances. Along with fun activities, the party also had popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy that people could make themselves. Also on display were performances from our student body, featuring performances from Charlotte Alexander '25, Steven Belloise '25, the Muhlenberg Dynamics, InAcchord and Gospel Choir, among others.

One of the other performances of the afternoon was the inaugural performance of the new Majorette dance team, Poised Ivy. The dance team is one of the newest additions to Muhlenberg's ever-expanding list of clubs.

Dynasty Adams '25, president and founder of Poised Ivy, said, "Preparing for the first performance for Poised Ivy was exciting but at the same time nerve-wracking... It was a lot of pressure given that we had to and still have to prove the importance of diversifying the dance culture on Muhlenberg's campus."

"Because it's a dance form most people here are not familiar with, the pressure of the first revelation was really coming from a place of fear of conveying that only certain people can do it. When in actuality the intention behind bringing it here was to convey that we should all step out of our comfort zone, try new things, and maybe you can discover doing something you never thought you'd be able to do initially," continued Adams

"There was a lot of good energy and everyone seemed to have a good time... The best part of the block party was definitely the music and the snow cones and cotton candy. InAcchord is so happy to have been asked to perform, we had such a great time and we would love to do it again in the future," said Evie Carlin '24, a member of the a cappella group.

Another artist, Sarah Wedeking '24, performed with her band Ukelear Meltdown. The band consists of Wedeking, Madi Leonard '24 and Anna Mikoski '24.

Wedeking said, "I performed with my band at the party, and it was so amazing to see dance, music and people out on such a nice day. It made me realize how much I missed this kind of fun since the pandemic. Practicing for the event was so much fun; my friends and I always wanted to make music together. This event let us face our stage fright and have a good time. I just loved the vibe of the block party... it was something we really needed after being in isolation for so long."

"Who's The Boss" dominated the rest of the day with a performance from the Mayhem Step Team, amongst other groups. The Mayhem Step Team Showcase was joined by Top Naach, MINT and—visiting from Albright College—the Xion dance team. The show ended with a performance from the Mayhem Step Team.

Co-captain of Mayhem Step Team, Jordan West '23 commented, "This show had a storyline and that created more crowd reaction. We decided to make acting an aspect of this step performance, and that's what made it different from our other step performances. As we continue to grow and evolve we plan to keep giving the audience a new experience."

Mayhem Step Team member Keanna Peña '25 said, "The whole day was just so exciting. I'm really glad my friends got to spend the day at the block party and then enjoy our showcase. This show was really fun to be a part of and we had a lot of fun preparing for it."

West continued, "The show was amazing, and I believe it brought the step team closer. To see and hear how our hard work was acknowledged made it all feel worth it. Seeing other groups performing is important to me. We all bring different lessons and experiences with our dancing. We can educate people through our bodies and seeing other groups perform affirmed that for me."

Studios premiere student work

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Co-Sports Editor

A small theatre sits on the bottom floor of the Center of the Arts. The audience sits so close that the squint of an actor's eyes, under the bright lights, can be seen. This is The Studio Theatre.

On the weekend of Apr. 7 to Apr. 10, The Studio Theatre played host to a set of three fully student-produced shows. The studio shows are student-written, student-directed, student-costumed, student-designed and student-acted.

At 6:10 p.m. on Apr. 7, the Greek tragedy "Medea" had their opening night. Unfamiliar to many 21st century college students, the cast used sheets and a portable projector to tell the story of Jason and the Argonauts. Jason and his crew pulled their ship onto the shores of Colchis, with a greedy thirst that would not be quenched by blood or gold. This destructive invasion is only the prelude to the horrors of Medea, princess of Colchis, who quickly fell in love with Jason.

Long story short, Jason cheats, Medea plots a revenge that kills everyone, kills Jason's new wife... and her kids (it's a tragedy for sure). Alyssa Miles '25 reacted to the play, saying, "I thought it was crazy. I thought it was scary, which is really good. Because I feel like that was the point of the show. And they really accomplish that."

Jordan Lavalle '25, who starred in the show as Medea, described her experience, saying, "It was such an awesome experience because you were working together. It wasn't a standard process. Especially with the type of play that it was, it was a Greek mythology play. I feel [with] those kinds of plays, you have to work together in order to understand the story. It's not just a straightforward kind of story. You have to explore the characters and the dynamic, as well as the time period, being able to do that with students and people who are learning. It's a process of

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"Out of the Depths" debuts new music

Photo courtesy of Kristi Morris/ Muhlenberg Office of Communications

Part of the choral program, students perform original music written by Andrew Ardizzoia.

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

On Friday, Apr. 1 at 7:30 p.m., the music department presented "Out of the Depths: New Music by Andrew Ardizzoia" at the Egner Memorial Chapel. The event was free and open to the public.

The program included art songs, choral, piano, organ, percussion and chamber music. According to Andrew Ardizzoia, DMA assistant professor of music and director of composition studies, the name of the concert was derived from both the organ piece, a setting of the Lutheran tune "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee," as well as a milestone in the gradual return to in-person live music concerts following the worst phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The program is completely different from what it was supposed to be two years ago," explained Ardizzoia. "Part of it was that I had written a ton of new music during the pandemic, especially the initial lockdown when I was stuck at home. A lot of what normally takes up time on campus was not happening, and I, like a lot of composers and also unlike a lot of composers, was in the right frame of mind to work."

One of the highlights on the program was a setting of the text from Eugene Field's "The Little Peach," which was performed by the Treble Ensemble. Ardizzoia explained that the piece stood out because, as a composer with classical foundations, using a light-hearted, narrative-driven poem laid the groundwork for a humorous experience.

Treble ensemble singer Bethany Qian '25 said, "'The Little Peach' is such a fun text and Dr. Ardizzoia's composition reflected it so well. Performing it with the Treble [Ensemble] was energizing and exciting, and it will live in my memory and my sheet music."

"I wasn't sure if 'The Little Peach' would work," reflected Ardizzoia. "But it was neat to hear people laugh for the right reasons...It was one of those pieces where as soon as I read the poem, I could see the entire piece in front of me; I knew exactly what the sound world was. I knew exactly how I was going to bridge the gaps and everything."

When asked about the highlights of the program, Ardizzoia spoke in detail about the aforementioned organ setting of "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee." Specifically, he explained that this performance by chapel organist Andrew Lutz-Long was so meaningful to him because he'd never heard the Egner Chapel pipe organ played as a concert instrument, and only previously heard it in the context of accompaniment, whether for choir or vocal soloists.

"I didn't realize it [the pipe organ] had such capability, and of course, every pipe organ is different. You really have to get to know the instruments individually," said Ardizzoia.

"I was struck by the incredible diversity of musical styles, concepts and instruments. Every piece was full of creativity and expression," said Will Howitt '23.

"It was really cool seeing how versatile of a composer Dr. Ardizzoia is," said Joshua Myers '22. "Some of his music is funny and tonal, others are wacky and push the limits of tonality, and some, like his organ variations on a Bach chorale, are just plain cool."

The Assembly Festival reaches for sunset with "Rosy-Crimson"

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

The natural world joined in harmony with various performers and artists these past few days with "Rosy-Crimson." The Assembly Festival continued with the performance that took place on Apr. 11-13. The Assembly Festival presented by the Muhlenberg theatre and dance department has allowed for expression and pieces in non-traditional forms of theatre. "Rosy-Crimson" is no different as it took a wide variety of elements and from a unique perspective.

Kim Hoeckele, assistant professor of art, photography, while not a theatre professor, utilized their unique perspective to create a captivating performance for audience members as both a writer and director.

"As a director— I have no experience," stated Hoeckele.

This then led Hoeckele to rely on the company of performers and value their input during the process as a whole.

"Everything I have learned about acting and direction has come from conversations with actors and then quickly schooling myself. In some ways, being a novice is freeing, because it allows me to make choices unencumbered by rules or certain approaches— but on the other hand, and especially because I am working with other people, it can be frustrating to not have the language to convey an adjustment to an actor. In some ways, my lack of expertise futhers the collaborative nature of the work because I am really relying on the actors input," continued Hoeckele.

The company included Zoe Kane '23, Larissa Dowling '23, Elaine Landry '24, Niamh Sherlock '23, Olivia Wasser '24, Naava Wilson '25 and Allison Mintz '23, who played in the space and contributed to the collaborative atmosphere.

"Lots of rehearsal processes here for actors involve a director coming in with a particular vision and piecing together how their actors can create it, but throughout these rehearsals Kim really gave us the opportunity to make these words our own. Kim has put up 'Rosy-Crimson' in a few different iterations and in different environments, and she encouraged us to adapt our characters based on our own personalities, which was fun and freeing," declared Mintz.

The hypnotic performance reflected on the setting of the sun while the dialogue consisted of the dawn and the beautiful colors of the spectacle. The piece was divided into seven scenes: 1. Rumors, 2. Restless, 3. Discord, 4. Clamor, 5. Apparition, 6. Endure, 7. Return. All of these scenes took place in the Robertson & South Amphitheater without some traditional theatrical production elements.

"I thought the performance was in a really cool space as we don't always use the Robertson & South Amphitheater for performances. The textual work the actors had done was beautiful and the costumes and makeup were stunning," stated Hannah Verdun '24, an audience member.

Lauren Koranda '23, an audience member, added, "Normalize producing shows in the South amphitheater!"

The costumes, makeup and actors helped to fill the environment and represent the themes of the piece. Bekka Broyles '22 served as the costume designer and helped to bring together the different fabric and colorful elements of the dawn.

"The color scheme for our costumes and makeup reflects the dawn so it's mostly pinks, reds and oranges," stated Wilson.

Performing "Rosy-Crimson" outside has also led to different issues for rehearsals and practicing the piece.

Wilson shared, "I think doing the show outside makes a lot of sense for this piece, although dealing with the weather and noise has been troublesome, I think it's worth it."

"I will add, we had a dreadful time with the weather to be able to rehearse outdoors consistently; it was freezing, it was raining, our rehearsals were late and it was dark. Watching the performance in full last night for the opening really transformed the work— in addition to the reference to a time of day, they discuss the wind and other elements, it really felt fitting to hear the birds and feel the breeze for the performance," mentioned Hoeckele.

The process was more than just a performance as it allowed for a nonlinear representation of textual ideas from "The Odyssey" by Homer, from 13 different English translations. The text also allowed for a focus on who the author of these stories is and what is included.

"I assembled the script using this repeated phrase, 'dawn's rosy fingers' from across 13 English translations of 'The Odyssey,'" declared Hoeckele. "The phrase was a mnemonic device used by an orator to keep a rhythm and remember their place in the epic poem. In creating the script, I was interested in the role of the translator: how much variation in a story could one find just based on the interpretive choices of a translator?"

Wilson mentioned, "Having our writer be our director gave us really detailed insight into her vision, while still being receptive to our own takes on what was happening in the script."

The entire cast of actors featured fe-

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Photo by Johnny Veglia '23

The set of "Medea" with open captioning display.

growth."

As an actor or actress, a play like "Medea" can take a real hold within your mind and body. It's important to detach from the heavy emotions of your performance and not allow your character to infect your everyday life. Olivia Thiemann '24, a member of the cast, said, "I like when I get back to my room. I like to kind of have a little bit of a moment of meditation. I have podcasts that I listen to where I can just sit and kind of on my own and take time to not necessarily process everything but to just let it go through the night."

"Medea" demonstrated the emotional depth of Muhlenberg actors and creative capabilities of student production teams with director Brayden Stallman '23, production stage manager Johnny Veglia '24 and assistant stage manager Robin Title '25.

Sadly, the second performance, "A Number," was canceled due to COVID complications. So, audience members who wished to attend "Medea," "A Number" and "The Scarlet Verse," on Thursday, took a quick break in between plays. The break allowed for more time in between scene changes and for audience members to grab a snack from GQ.

"The Scarlet Verse" was a mash up of musical greats with themes that were reminiscent of "Newsies," a dash of "Les Miserables," a teaspoon of "Oliver" and even a hint of "Jekyll and Hyde." This recipe of vocals made for a stand out student composition that displayed the vocal, writing and acting chops of all involved.

For Danny Milkis '23, composer and musical director, this performance was an opportunity to realize a four year long dream. Milkis had written and composed the musical for Audio Fringe Festival in 2020. Sadly, this dream fell victim to the pandemic, as did so many others. Now, two years later, "Scarlet Verse" took the stage. What inspired this extremely complex and unique storyline? "I pulled this story from a very, very personal point. I wrote the narrative too. Because I was trying to cope with a tragedy in my own life and self doubt back in my last year of high school." said Milkis.

Milkis took his own emotional pain and redirected it into crafting a musical that would speak to a large part of the human experience. Milkis says, "I really wanted people to take away that even when someone isn't physically in your life anymore, that you connected with them on a deeper level. That what they brought into your life is still just as special. That people come into your life and they leave your life for a reason, and like understanding that it's extremely important."

The fourth play of the studio productions was "Wake," written and directed by Ally Duvak '22, a ghost story that shone a new light on the shady corners of a funeral home. Duvak's play dealt tastefully and poignantly with the theme of suicide and how it's victims are held in the hearts of their loved ones. The small ensemble cast and thirty-minute play fostered an intimate experience. Once Duvak's script was in her actors' hands, they took it and ran, finding the silent moments in between the words and the intonations of every syllable. They captured the grief of suicide, and the incredible power that death has to motivate the living.

Duvak says, "I really enjoyed this process, and I enjoyed how collaborative it was. The fact that I had a team to bounce ideas off of, but also to get ideas from things I never would have thought of myself. That includes the actors who really embodied this thing and fully committed to it. They gave it such honest care and work that I was really grateful for. It's an experience that I'm very thankful for and that I will miss dearly."

A single night at Muhlenberg Studios would move anyone to laughter or tears. All three performances show the beautiful art that can be made by holistic all-student productions.

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male and non-binary identifying students. The environment created by Carolina Sutton-Schott '24, production stage manager, Baylee Whitebread '25, assistant stage manager and the company allowed for a safe and inclusive space for everyone. The Assembly Festival has allowed for these diverse and inclusive environments, as seen with "A Feeling Of, Feeling For" as well.

"Normalize producing shows in the South Amphitheater!"

Mintz stated, "Most casts become close throughout the rehearsal process, but I feel that I will genuinely come out of this experience with a new group of supportive friends."

"For me it feels like the show changes everytime we do it, and it makes every experience exciting," said Wilson.

"I cannot emphasize how lucky I feel as a theatre student to have met and worked with Kim, a photography professor who I never would've otherwise interacted with in my time at Muhlenberg without 'Rosy-Crimson.' She has stretched my brain to help me think about art in new ways, Kim is a constant support to all of us in and out of rehearsal, from bringing us cookies and oranges to revive us after a long day to zooming in from home while she suffered through COVID to help us figure out the meaning of our opening scene," concluded Mintz.

The entire piece was a reflection of "The Odyssey" and the important role of dawn, with various levels of movement by the actors, different texts, moments of silence and a beautiful sunset in the distance complete with natural elements. The reciprocal of dawn, sunset, allowed for a unique view of "Rosy-Crimson." Audiences left with their own interpretations of the piece and a new appreciation for the beauty of the sun.

Koranda mentioned, "I was deeply moved by the performing company's embodiment of the non-linear language as they made meaning amongst themselves that I, as an audience member, became deeply invested in."

"I think audiences need to come to this work letting go of the expectation of a traditional plot arch, and allow themselves to be curious about the kinds of relationships that are created by the actors," declared Hoeckele.

Jay's Local
Our Spring/Summer Menu is out now!!
Coffee

The Old College Cry

By Lily Magoon (She/Her)
Staff Writer

We have officially reached that time of the semester: when too much is happening all at once, and you find yourself that much closer to losing the already tenuous grip you have on your sanity. Unfortunately, the opportunity to do anything about the massive overcommitment we're all experiencing is long gone. So, what do we do about the constant stream of caffeine and stress entering our systems, and the presumably unrelated increase in panic attacks? Cry. The answer is cry. But, the more complicated question is where do we cry? Sometimes the need to cry catches you off guard, and you can't make it back to the dorm, or maybe your roommate(s) are already crying there. Whatever the reason, sometimes you need a good place to cry in public, and— if so— this list of the best places on campus to cry is for you.

Notably, most of these locations are bathrooms, which provide a few advantages. First of all, "I'm going to the bathroom" is a perfectly acceptable reason to give when trying to leave whatever situation you′re in. It's not even a lie, you just failed to specify that you were going there to cry. Bathrooms are also one of the few public places where privacy is guaranteed, so they're naturally an excellent choice for your crying needs. With that in mind, let's begin with the non-bathroom locations.

You know it, you love it, C-level of the library. You do have to be quiet, so no hysterical sobbing, but if you're looking for ambiance, this is the place for you. A group study room can be nice if you can get one, but the numerous individual study tables work just fine. Something about silent tears rolling down your cheeks amongst the Russian history anthologies really speaks to the main character in all of us.

Next up, a favorite of the theatre and music majors, the basement practice rooms in the CA. These are the closest thing to soundproof you're going to get—wailers take note—and there's always a chance anyone who hears you will think you're a fan of vocal slides. There are mirrors in some of them, so you don't have to leave the room with mascara under your eyes or a blotchy face, and if you like a soundtrack to your mental breakdown, there's no need for earbuds.

For our first bathroom location, we have the downstairs bathrooms in Seegers Union. Out of the way, tucked behind some mailboxes, this location is rarely busy, even in the middle of the day. This bathroom is ideal for a mealtime cry, due to its proximity to the dining hall or, perhaps, after a frustrating meeting with the Career Center.

Moyer is one of the ugliest buildings on campus, and the vibes inside are exactly as cursed as the outside may suggest. If a building's very existence were to make someone cry, Moyer would be it. Whether it's the building itself, or the classes you're taking in it, the second-floor bathrooms are the premier destination for your Moyer-crying needs. Why you may ask? Honestly, there is no concrete evidence for this recommendation, it just seems to be the one location in this truly terrible building that doesn't actively do damage to your mental health.

This one may surprise you, but the upstairs bathrooms in the LSC are both a convenient and secluded place to have a mental breakdown. Some people work out their frustrations through physical activity, and whether you need to work through your emotions a little before or after your workout, these seldom used and spacious bathrooms are the perfect place to do it.

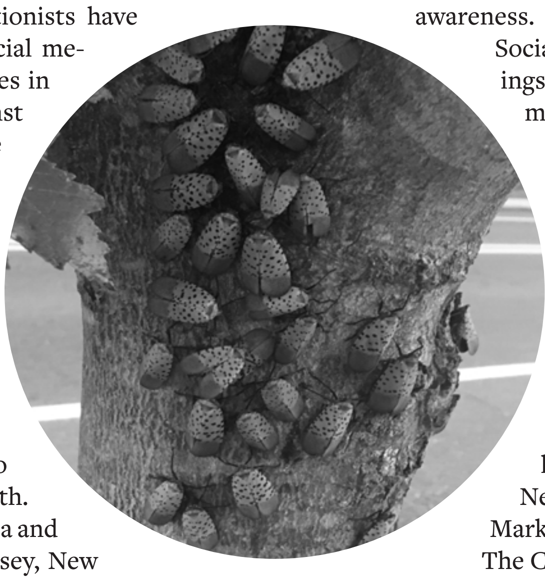
Last, but certainly not least, are the Rehearsal House bathrooms. Due to their remote location, they're only of circumstantial use, but those circumstances arise frequently. Acting classes, voice lessons, rehearsals: all emotionally loaded, and often taking place in Rehearsal House, making the demand for an appropriate place to cry all the more urgent. There are four large, single-stall bathrooms in Rehearsal House, all equipped with loud fans, almost as though someone had designed them with crying in mind. With plenty of space and noise to cover the sounds of your panic attack, these bathrooms offer a luxurious crying experience, perfect for the emotionally fragile artists that frequent the building.

Wherever you choose to do your crying as the semester draws to a close, know that you are not alone. We're Muhlenberg students; taking on too much is basically a requirement for admission, and the mental breakdowns that go along with that spare no one. So, if you find yourself overwhelmed and sniffling in a bathroom stall, know that there's a decent chance you're not the only one.

Can Social Media Beat Invasive Species??

By Jessica Rosen (She/Her)
Contributing Writer

Recently, a new method of controlling invasive species has emerged, something I call the social media method. While traditional methods used to control invasive species—such as biological, mechanical and chemical methods—directly attack the pest, the strength of the social media method is its ability to educate and activate people. Conservationists have begun experimenting with high-tech social media solutions to help keep invasive species in check. The social media campaign against the Spotted Lanternfly has proven to be successful and is a model that we should emulate, both as we continue responding to the Spotted Lanternfly invasion and when responding to future invasive species.



Spotted Lanternflies disrupt ecosystems by consuming essential nutrients and laying eggs on trees. This leaves over 70 species of hardwood, native and fruit-bearing trees vulnerable to disease and infection, and prevents growth. They were first discovered in Pennsylvania and then quickly spread throughout New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and the rest of the United States. It became apparent that this pest needed to be controlled immediately and that new methods were needed. Scientists, politicians and environmental advocates collaborated to develop a social media campaign that could call upon diverse members of affected communities to make a difference.

The social media method involves effective online communication and collaboration. Effective high-tech social media campaigns against invasive species have happened on two levels: professional and social. Twitter and Facebook are examples of platforms where education and communication can occur on both levels. In this way, social media is an asset, acting as a common space to formulate solutions, enabling a country widemovement that created an army of researchers consisting of professionals and volunteers.

To understand the social media method, let′s look at examples of community members and organizations making a difference.

On the social level, communities around the nation adopted a "no mercy" campaign, encouraging each other to stomp on the invaders one fly at a time.

"Squish squad," a group led by Pennsylvanian high schoolers, aims to stomp on Lanternflies and increase community awareness.

Social media users have documented sightings, shared information, and created comedic material and other visual guides regarding the dangers of the Spotted Lanternfly

On a professional level...

Organizations call out and celebrate individuals to both educate and inspire. The NYC Parks department celebrates Sara and encourages citizens to "be like Sara!" while also making people aware of the newly developed data system to log and track the pests created by The New York Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The City of Hoboken, Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture, and other government agencies and universities have posted educational graphics with identification information that has sparked meaningful conversations and encouraged participation in the "no mercy" campaign.

While these are just a few examples of the social media approach, this engaging and educational approach to addressing invasives has proven to be valuable and essential in this digital age. As we grapple with the challenge of mitigating intense invaders such as the Spotted Lanternfly, we have effectively collaborated and inspired action. Social media has been a crucial tool in educating and learning how to combat the Spotted Lanternfly and should be applied to other invasive species. In doing so, together we can sustainably coexist with native species, protect natural resources, and support human health and the economy. Encourage people of all ages, your parents, friends, kids and grandchildren to take action against the Spotted Lanternfly and any invasive species that come their way.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Listen Loudly
...
A creative space for marginalized voices

Untitled

By Sydney Baron (They/Them)
Staff Writer

If we all just cared for one another

I met a mother on the bike path in Somerville today
Her son showed me the garden plot they plant on.

What if instead of transactions, we expected care?
What if instead of you serve me, it was we serve us?
Not because we must,
But because we're united in our recognition of one another's humanity and dignity?

I don't think I'm naive to dream of a world where this is possible.
I think i am brave enough
To create it
Brick by brick
In my tiny corner of the universe

This is to my friends back home:

Keanna Peña (She/Her)
Editorial Assistant

I love you
I love you when we would all explore the city together and you would walk me home afterward
I love you when you would come to my house in the summers and just sit outside on the steps and talk with me
I love you when you picked me up from the train after work because a girl my size just can't walk home alone at 10 pm
I love you for putting me on to The Weeknd because yes
I love you and your glasses and insistent desire to wear all black, even in the summer
I love you
I remember when you held my hand as we ran through 34th St.
Our palms were so sweaty but you didn't let go
It might've been because back then I was not athletic at all and you wanted me to keep up, but I remember the way we weaved through people you leading the way
I remember when you taught me how to ride a bike in Central Park and you wouldn't give up
I remember how excited you were for me when I got it
Then last summer when you and I and our friends would ride Citi bikes together in the city, you would always make me ride in front of you because you were always scared that I'd fall behind and I'd die or something
You always took care of me
When I came back to the city for her birthday and there was no way we'd see each other,
we meet at Broadway Junction and were going in opposite directions
I was going home and you were going out
Yet we still stopped for twenty minutes to talk
and when my train finally came, we instinctively looked at each other and said I love you at the same time
I love you I love you and your laugh and your nose piercing that you were scared your parents would disown you for
I love you
when you buy me strawberry acais and when you forced me to try an iced chai (which is now my favorite drink)
when we can just go by the water and read
The fact that you read for fun just makes me love you even more
When we split a pizza together and buy books together
When we make plans just to see each other
When I gave you that frame with a collage of all of our favorite places and you cried in the middle of the park and it made me cry and we were just standing in the park crying and hugging
I love you and your blond hair and the way you hug me
I love you
I love you when we work on homework together, I swear you make me smarter
When we would organize everything, and make college dorm lists together
I love you for making "miss girl" my new catchphrase, which is getting me in trouble btw
When you would ask me for book recommendations and inspire me to be better
I love you and your braids and glasses
And lastly, I love you
I love you because you love me
We are not the same person
But sometimes we'd just look at each other and burst out laughing because even without words we knew what we were talking about
You are my singing partner
My facetime buddy
I don't really know how to describe our relationship,
But I love you, and your curly black hair and rusted necklace that you reuse to take of

I love you all
When I think of New York I think of you
I think of all the time we spent together
In Union Square
Williamsburg
The Vessel
The hood
Your car
You make home for me
You made me
I love you

Paige's Page

Paige Weisburg (She/Her)
Senior Staff Writer

Hey besties! Welcome to this week's edition of Paige's Page! As Sorority and Fraternity formal season is coming to a close, it appears that love, like spring, has sprung upon many of you. Unfortunately, based on the questions for this week, it appears as though things are not going great for a lot of you. That's okay! I went to two formals and the only love I found was an increased appreciation for a supportive pair of shoes. Beauty is pain, and I looked absolutely stunning. This week, as you probably could have guessed, we are talking about relationships. I love this topic, so let's get started!

Hi Paige! I'm sick of rejection but I feel like if I stop trying then I am giving up on love. Help?
Hey, bestie! I am so sorry that this is happening to you! Rejection is the worst feeling, probably ever. It comes with a lot of personal critiques and a lot of negative self-analysis. It makes you question if you even understand even a little bit about the things you do and the way that you do them. It can make you feel crazy for putting yourself out there. Please, if you gain absolutely nothing else from what I have to say, know that what you are thinking and feeling is not crazy, your feelings are valid and you may need to validate them yourself. I know it can be really scary and uncomfortable to continue to try to be open to putting yourself in that situation again after this happens. I think that, ultimately, continuing to try to accept love and appreciation is the hardest part. Placing yourself in that situation again, after a rejection, knowing the feelings you felt the last time are feelings you may possibly feel again, is the most anxiety-provoking experience. But proving to yourself that you can be open again with your actions makes you so incredibly strong. You shouldn't stop trying and you don't have to. But taking a break to learn about yourself and grow as an individual is always a great idea. If anything, it will make you a stronger person who is more open and accepting of the love you deserve. Don't stop trying. I really, really hate the saying that love just comes when you aren't looking for it. That's not true, love comes when you can love yourself and have the space in your heart to want to grow with another person. Never stop wanting to follow your own heart, it will guide you in whatever way it needs to in order for you to be the person you are meant to be.

Hey Paige, whenever I see a person I previously hooked up with it's always super awkward. How do I make it less awkward?
Hi bestie, I hate to break this to you, but that is not possible if both of you can't not be awkward. That elephant is always going to be in the room, you can address it if you think that would help with the weird tension, but odds are you don't want to do that. You really have to either pretend in your own head that it didn't happen so you don't make yourself feel weird, or you need to just not think about it. Yes, this school is small but that does not mean you have to be weird to someone that you had a shared experience with. Leave it as an unspoken thing, don't look at them when you're walking through the dining hall, don't go out of your way to ask them how they're doing, just do what you have to do to get through each day. We are all adults, we can move on from things. Find something that gives you the ick about them, maybe you watched them eat yogurt in public once (this is a new ick I discovered I had last week) or maybe you didn't, but you can pretend you did. Now things aren't awkward, it's funny because, like, ew. If you don't make things awkward, they are not awkward. You got this!

Hi Paige, one of my friends recently got into a relationship, before this we would see each other basically every day, and now we barely speak. It's really frustrating because I miss them. What should I do?
Hey bestie, this is really difficult. I have dealt with this a lot; many times, people are so excited when they get into relationships to have a person they can be with all the time and do anything with. Unfortunately, people tend to get caught up in that and unintentionally cut out the other people that they care about. Having never been in a relationship, I have a really hard time grasping how one can't be a good significant other and a good friend at the same time. The way I view my relationships with other people is that you should be able to have intimate, personal and beautiful moments with your friends as well as your significant other(s). Maintaining strong relationships with people close to you is super important. Honestly, the person you may be with right now may not be your person forever, actually, more likely than not, they won't be. Friends can be forever, friends are always there. I'm sorry your friend is having a hard time understanding this right now, because clearly you care so much about this relationship. I would continue to try to make plans, and if they are not making themself available for you after a few tries, I would take a minute before trying again. I'm sure they want to spend time with you too, but they may just be caught up in the newness of their relationship. Tell them you miss them, and that you love them, they'll say it back.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespage-question. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree.

Running, throwing and jumping into the records

Two school records plus eight first-place finishes at home and Ursinus meets

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

With five meets in the month of April, the Mules got off to a hot start at the Muhlenberg Invitational with four first place finishes, six qualifying for regionals, and 24 new Centennial Conference qualifiers. Alongside the strong showing at home, two school records were broken.

"Our DMR (distance medley relay) team recently broke the outdoor DMR record, which I think is a great way to start the season," said Abby Dalton '22, a distance runner. "I thought everyone ran well at the first meet, and I'm excited to see how we will improve."

Thrower Faith Fezenko '24 also claimed the school record for hammer throw with a mark of 129-5. The team then followed up with another strong outing at the Ursinus Outdoor Invitational on Apr. 9 with four first place finishes.

These were great showings for the Mules and will certainly help the confidence of both the individual athletes as well as the team. "The first few meets of outdoor track and field are always a little shaky due to poor weather and nerves being high, but the successes across the team over the past three weeks has really given us a mule kick of confidence and positive energy going into the meet at Ursinus and the rest of the season," said Noel House '24, who placed first in the javelin throw.

Teammate and high jumper Ben Arehart '22 couldn't agree more. "Building confidence is key in any sport, particularly in track. The reason for this is that clearing a new height or hitting a new personal best time is often a mental barrier. That being said, once you hit that next goal, it often becomes more consistent in the future."

The Mules certainly did not lack any confidence during their home meet with 11 Mules from the women's side and 14 from the men's side placing in the top ten, a great way to kick off the month of April.

For many on the team, there are still goals they want to accomplish. "My personal goals are to qualify for nationals and place top 5 at the NCAA Div[ision] III meet," said Arehart. He is not the only one with that goal in mind. "I am aiming to qualify for Nationals and to continue to set new PRs as the season progresses," said House. Of course the main objective is to reach the national meet. "I want to improve my time in the 1500 and see how I do running the 5k on the track for the first time," said Dalton.

However, no one is forgetting that this is still a team sport and how they all impact each other: "As a team, our goals are to be the best athletes we can be through consistency, diligence and hard work, week in and week out," said House. For Dalton, the camaraderie with the team is what makes track so special and so important to individual performances. "Track and field is one of the most diverse sports, having members with a varying set of skills," said Dalton. "It's important for us to not live in a 'distance-runner bubble.' We want to prepare to have a successful conference meet and continue to unite the team."

Beyond creating a bond with each other, there are goals for the whole team that everyone wants to contribute to. "For the team, our goal is to jump up several spots from the overall team score from indoor track," said Arehart. "We have several athletes who compete better outdoors, and several individuals who will score crucial points that were unable to compete outdoors."

The Mules will look to keep the strong April start going at the Greyhound Invitational at Moravian University and the Larry Ellis Invitational at Princeton University on Apr. 15.

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Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Abby Dalton '22 training during XC season for a dominant track season.

Lax looks to build momentum

By Josh Botel
Staff Writer

MUHLENBERG
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Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Ethan Grossman '21 looks for the open pass.

Muhlenberg lacrosse is off to a great start to the conference season. They are 7-3 overall and 3-1 in conference play so far with 13-8, 11-8 and 8-5 wins against Washington College, Swarthmore College and Ursinus College respectively.

Ethan Grossman '21, a graduate student, is the team leader in cumulative points and is currently ninth in the Centennial Conference with a total of 37. Those points are a combination of his 19 goals and 18 assists; the latter is good for fifth in the Centennial Conference. Reflecting on his success so far this season Grossman said, "The hard work and preparation we have put in has made us enjoy this season so far. Seeing all the hard work pay off is a great feeling. Beating Ursinus has been the best moment of our season so far. We came together as a group and grinded through a tough, physical game and came up on top."

The Mules have had great success this season so far scoring goals and their leading scorer is James Dalimonte '23. He leads the team with 22 goals and has also been credited with four assists this season. He has stood out this season for his goal scoring and superb ball movement. Another standout performer for the Mules this season has been goalkeeper, Max May '23. He has had 109 saves on the season and has saved 57.7 of the shots on goal, a mark which is good enough for third in the entire Centennial Conference.

The Mules have been led by seventh year head coach and last year's coach of the year, Jake Plunkett, all year. Grossman talked about how Plunkett has been able to get the best out of the Mules all season saying, "Coach Plunkett's message to us is to just out work our opponents in every aspect. Work harder in the weight room, film room, practices get in the training room and the success will show up on game day." Plunkett's strategy is part of the reason the Mules lacrosse team has had success for four years now.

Muhlenberg has four games remaining, with two of them being played at Scotty Wood Stadium. The Mules will play at Dickinson College on Apr. 16, and then return home the following Wednesday, Apr. 20, to play Haverford College.

Grossman made it clear what his expectations are for the remainder of the season. "We expect our team to come out strong in the remaining conference games. We are preparing hard for each game, and we expect to come out with wins in every game." The Mules hope to continue winning in conference and keep this momentum up for the rest of the season.

Women’s tennis takes a swing

By Noah Berger
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg women’s tennis team traveled to Dickinson College this weekend. While they were unable to secure their first conference win, that did not deter team spirit, as they are looking forward to competing in the rest of their season. Although the women’s team lost 8-1, they are excited for the last few weeks of the season, which includes all their remaining conference matchups against teams such as Haverford College on Apr. 13 and Bryn Mawr College on Apr. 19.

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Caroline Armknecht ‘22 warms up before winning her match.

Caroline Armknecht ‘22, who serves as a co-captain, spoke about her experience playing at Dickinson this weekend. Armknecht spoke about her strategy going into the match, saying, “The Centennial Conference has some really great tennis players, so I tell myself to settle into and enjoy the battle each time I walk onto the court. I take each game one point at a time and try to keep my balls high, deep and heavy. At the end of the day, when a match is competitive between two players, whoever wins really just wanted the match more and pushed themselves, which I did in my singles. It’s my senior year, and I want to rack up as many wins as I can before I graduate!”

Malin Hermanson ’23 echoed a similar sentiment when talking about her gameplan going into her match. She said, “My strategy going into the match was to hit one more ball. I want the opponent to mess up before I do!”

Armknecht reflected on some of the successes of the matchup, although the team did not perform as well as she would have liked overall. “My opponent and I had some pretty long points, so whenever I push myself to grind out a long point and end up winning it, that’s a great feeling. Once I broke my opponent’s serve in the second set at 1-2, it fired me up to stay focused, finish strong and not lose any more games from that point on,” she said.

Rose Glantz ’22, who is the team’s other co-captain, chimed in as well. “The weather was definitely challenging, as the courts were wet for warmups with the rain on and off. They eventually dried up, and it turned out to be a nice day, but it wasn’t ideal,” Glantz said.

Hermanson continued to speak about her outlook on the rest of the season saying, “We’re getting into conference play, so the season looks like it’s going to get pretty tough from here on out, but I’m excited to compete.”

While the team had many individual successes, there were also some spots where members of the team had struggled more than they would have liked. Armknecht said, “Coming off the court from doubles was a real challenge because I definitely did not play my best, but I was able to put that behind me and pivot to focus on doing my best in my singles match. The weather was a bit of a challenge too because it was raining during the start of warm-ups, which threw me, and I didn’t feel like I was able to get into a groove for doubles.”

Glantz reflected on some of her successes during the match. She said, “My favorite point was when I hit a winner down the line in the first set of my singles match.”

The women’s team is excited for the rest of the season. Armknecht said, “We have three more weeks of our season and five more matches, three of which are on our home courts. Some of them are pretty difficult teams ([John] Hopkins and Swat [Swarthmore]), but I think our matches with Bryn Mawr and Haverford will be competitive. As a team we will keep working hard in practice and giving our 100% at matches.”

Glantz echoed familiar hopes, “I’m excited for the rest of my last tennis season at Muhlenberg and to be on the courts with my teammates. I’m also really looking forward to doubles with my amazing partner, Sophia Framm [‘24], and to have fun while also playing against some tough competitors.”

From **Greek** page 4

event that every chapter talks about throughout the year, but the weather didn’t look like it would be in our favor. We had to change the schedule three days before the game because of the weather forecast, and I was afraid that we would have to cancel our rain date too,” she said.

While praying that Mother Nature did not interfere with the tentative schedule, Caban-Echevarria was worried about executing the “Greek Sing” event. “The most challenging aspect of ‘Greek Week’ was making the rules for every game and getting out all the information a month before it happened. It felt like a mad dash to finalize everything, while at the same time keeping it all under wraps so it would be a surprise to every chapter,” Caban-Echevarria said.

Despite the unavoidable obstacles that emerged over the week, Shaw and Caban-Echevarria both had an incredible amount of fun and derived a significant amount of joy from raising over $4,000. Specifically, for Caban-Echevarria, it was having the dunk tank brought to campus in honor of $1,000 that proved to be one the most memorable parts of her week. “The most enjoyable moment for me this week was getting in the dunk tank. Although I volunteered, I was nervous to get in, but it ended up being so fun and rewarding,” she said.

Caban-Echevarria was not the only one to be dunked in the cold water on a breezy and cloudy Tuesday afternoon, but Younes along with Zeta Beta Tau President Sam Brown ‘23, IFC Secretary Tom Hiller ‘23 and different students across Greek life also took the plunge.

She may not have volunteered for the tank, but, for Shaw, the overall success of Penny Wars was a defining moment of Greek Week. “Last year, the Greek Week philanthropy was the Dylan Gleason scholarship to celebrate the life of [Delta Tau Delta] DTD brother Dylan. This year, shortly after Ashley passed away, we had an outpouring of requests to honor her,” Shaw said.

And so, after formally choosing to support the foundation and receiving the support of the Goodman family, who offered to match up to $5,000, the competitive spirit of the Greek community came to life. Reflecting upon this, Shaw described the reason for the Penny Wars initiative. “We chose Penny Wars knowing that it is a game that fosters healthy competition that ultimately goes towards a good cause. It is frequently played in education settings, and we believed it was something we could get the entire community involved in because we wanted to outreach to as many facets of campus as possible.”

While immensely proud of Fraternity and Sorority Life’s commitment to philanthropy, Shaw is also proud of the fact that “Greek Week” was also a time to highlight each chapter and acknowledge individual members for their contributions throughout the past year. “One of my favorite moments of the week was ‘Greek Sing!’ It was really important to me that we created an event that was able to highlight what each chapter does throughout the year and I’m proud of what we were able to do during that event. Each chapter was able to share their accomplishments. We got to recognize individual members for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the community,” Shaw said.

Caban-Echevarria, too, is extremely happy that “Greek Week” was able to bring the best out of the community. “‘Greek Week’ has revealed that we are so much stronger when we work together as a community. It was supposed to just be a fun way to celebrate ourselves, but by hearing from community members, it revealed that Greek life left a lasting impression that will carry [through] the rest of the year,” she said.

This certainly rings true across Greek life, as individual chapters recognize that “Greek Week” is not only about having fun but is a means of bringing their organizations closer together. According to Patrick Carmody ‘23, president of Alpha Tau Omega, the winner of Greek Week on behalf of IFC, this past week’s events had a profound impact in that regard. “I think this week really helped us all come together, not only to participate and have fun but also to raise money for a good cause. AEPi trumped us by raising the most money and a really great job to them, but we put forth our best effort and got on each other to raise money which helped create a unified front for the Ashley Hope Foundation. I think morale at ATO is near an all time high and ‘Greek Week’ had a large part to play in it,” he said.

Similarly, for Delta Zeta, the campaign for the Ashley Hope Foundation had a profound impact on the entire sorority. President of DZ, Emily Kolodney ‘24 spoke to this saying, “Ashley Hope Goodman is always in our hearts and she brings us together in all cases, but especially in this case because we were raising money to support her foundation. As much as we loved the competition and different events, the most important part for DZ was raising money to support Ashley Hope.”

Despite still recovering from having to count thousands of pennies, Shaw is nonetheless thankful for outlets like “Greek Week” as it enables her to continue fostering relationships with each member of the Greek life community.

“One of my favorite parts of my job is the people I get to do it with — all of you! Despite the long nights, ‘Greek Week’ is one of the only times of the year where I get to consistently interact with the community in a more natural environment outside of my office. There’s (roughly) 340 members of the Fraternity and Sorority Life community so I’m always looking for ways to get to know everyone and connect on an individual basis,” Shaw said.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules pack the stands!

MALT encourages fan support for Mule athletics

By Isaac Shulman
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Max Seeber ‘22 charges forward with the cheers of the home crowd behind him.

Last week Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team, also known as MALT, hosted DIII Week on campus. Every day from Apr. 4 to Apr. 8, MALT hosted a special activity to celebrate the hard work and dedication student athletes have exhibited throughout the school year. There was a dodgeball tournament and even a Special Olympics All-Sport Camp. On top of the fun athletic competitions there were also informative presentations including one on nutrition and mental health. In addition, the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society Induction Ceremony, for student athletes who have exhibited high performance both on and off the field, took place on Friday, Apr. 8.

On Saturday, Apr. 9, MALT's final event of DIII Week was the "Pack the Place" competition. The competition was set to take place at the women's lacrosse, softball and men's lacrosse games to see which team could get the most fans to come out to their game. Unfortunately, wet field conditions forced the softball game to be canceled, thus removing them from hosting the competition. Despite this, Muhlenberg's student athletes still went out to the Scotty Wood Stadium to cheer on their fellow Mules.

The rules of the competition were simple: the team that got the most of their student athletes to attend and post an image to Instagram along with hashtag #MulesAreHere would win. The wrestling team won the competition and will receive a prize, to be determined at a later date, for their efforts. Although the wrestling team won the competition, they were not the only team to come away with a positive experience. The men's and women's lacrosse teams both benefited from the competition by experiencing a larger crowd than usual resulting in a much more emotional and passionate student section.

One of the captains of the men's lacrosse team, Max Seeber ‘22, said, "The atmosphere at the game was fantastic. It was great to see, hear and feel the support from our classmates; it definitely pumped us up and we fed off of the energy the crowd brought. The great thing about Muhlenberg and our culture here is the athletes support each other, so it was great to have that kind of support on Saturday."

Seeber is very appreciative of the support that fans have shown over the course of the whole season, especially since the Centennial Conference did not allow spectators during the 2021 season. "Having fans this year has been awesome. Last year was tough at times not having the energy from the fans and the positive energy and juice they bring. So to have that this year has been a great addition. Additionally, having the support from our families during and after the games is what has helped our team build the culture we have here now. To have our families back in the stands and tailgating with us after has been great."

For Seeber and the men's lacrosse team, now is the time for them to put their foot on the gas. "As shocking and heartbreaking as Saturday's loss was, we still have half of our conference season to go. We have put ourselves in a great position to make the playoffs if we take care of business in the back half of conference play. We would love to be in the spot at the end of our season to host a conference playoff game. Moving forward though, as an older guy on the team, it's important to keep the boys focused on what's in front of us and not dwelling on what's behind us. We have some great opportunities against ranked teams coming up and we couldn't be more excited for the rest of the season.

Muhlenberg fans also stuck around to watch the women compete Saturday afternoon as they faced off against Franklin & Marshall. Ariella Lerner ‘22 was very impressed with the support they received throughout the game. "We played the number two ranked team in Division III: Franklin & Marshall. We were all a bit nervous that the Franklin & Marshall game was going to be the ‘Pack the Place’ game. However, with the support of the numerous fans that showed up, students and family members, we only lost 16 to ten. We have come the closest so far this season in scores compared with the other Centennial Conference teams that have played Franklin and Marshall so far. The atmosphere, full of cheering, helped make the game exciting."

As the spring season is coming to a close, Lerner hopes the women's lacrosse team can finish strong. She said, "I wholeheartedly believe that we could win the remainder of our games giving us an awesome record for this season. Each and every individual on the team has been working hard to help get our team to reach their fullest potential. After a bit of a challenging season last year, we have certainly bounced back and upped our game to become a winning team that has certainly shocked the Centennial Conference."

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Month. 29 - Month. 29

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Ursinus
Fri, Apr. 15 @ 3:00 p.m.
Coca-Cola Park

Women's Track & Field
Muhlenberg
vs
Princeton
Fri, Apr. 15
Larry Ellis Invitational, Princeton,

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg
vs
Dickinson
Sat, Apr. 16 @ 12:00 p.m.
Carlisle, Pa.

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Washington College
Sat, Apr. 16 @ 12:00 p.m.
Chestertown, Md.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022
VOLUME CXLIII, ISSUE XX
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VOTE

Registration deadline May 2

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Photo by Rebecca Clark '23

MUHLENBERG
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Drag show at 'Berg

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Candidates go head-to-head in SGA debate

'Berg will decide its new Student Body President in the upcoming election.

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

On Apr. 20, Benji Eber '23 and Jason Ivey '23 participated in the presidential debate for the upcoming Student Government Association (SGA) elections. The candidates each gave opening and closing statements and were also asked a number of questions. They were both serious and lighthearted, and conversations ranged from their visions for Muhlenberg's future to the kind of alarms they wake up to in the morning. Moderating the debate were current SGA president Zaire Carter '22 and Jonathan Slovak '22, a member of the elections committee.

Both Eber and Ivey came into the debate with a lot of experience. Eber is the current SGA vice president and Ivey is the campus engagement chair for SGA, having also run for president last year. Both laid out exciting goals for their presidency. Eber stated that his top priorities are to provide free menstrual hygiene products in all restrooms on campus, increasing student wages and fixing the current parking problem on campus. Ivey's priorities are to bridge a student body that is fractured over COVID and other issues as well as restoring the relationship between the students and the College's administration.

One of the core issues of the night was related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on campus, with a focus on how to make the voices of marginalized students heard on campus. Both candidates agreed that it is a very important issue that needs to be addressed but they had different visions on how to provide a solution. Ivey plans to "make sure we are tabling, sending out surveys and using the information we gather to integrate the wants of the student body with the will of the SGA." On the other hand, Eber's plan is to "make myself more accessible to students to approach and talk to me. I also have a great executive board behind me to help communicate with the students."

In addition to listening to the voices of underrepresented students, the candidates were also pressed on how they are going to make SGA—a historically white organization—more diverse and akin to the student body. Ivey said, "It starts with acknowledging our failure as SGA to be diverse and represent people of all ethnicities on campus." He plans to put people of different backgrounds on all the SGA committees. Eber plans to reach out to affinity groups and clubs as well as the Office of Multicultural Life to make sure that they know about the logistics behind SGA elections and how to run for office themselves.

The last major topic that was covered at the debate was how to support the many clubs on campus. Both Eber and Ivey had similar visions for how to support the current clubs on campus, starting with funding. Ivey wants to make sure that clubs know what funding is available to them and encourages clubs to request and spend money, because spending money "shows the administration that it is a priority and will cause them to increase funding for clubs." Both candidates also expressed they want clubs to know that SGA isn't just a place for funding, it is also a guide for them. Both Eber and Ivey plan to have SGA representatives attend more club meetings to foster a deeper connection between clubs and SGA.

Students had positive views of the debate and the candidates. Ben Arehart '23 stated his support for Jason Ivey saying, "Jason is actions over words. That is how I have always been and I appreciate people who lead by example, and Jason has always done that."

Ashley Kim '25 didn't prefer one candidate over the other saying, "Both seemed qualified for the role of president and while I think that there is a lot of work to be done, I am hopeful whoever gets it will perform their duties well."

Ian Clark '25, who stated that he will be voting for Eber said, "Both candidates seemed very passionate about serving this campus and I think that is very important for the student body president. Personally, I will be voting for Benji but I think that both candidates had a very good performance on stage and while I am voting for Benji, I do appreciate Jason's ideas and I hope that he is still able to incorporate those ideas into SGA. I am very excited to see where SGA goes with a new administration."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

EDITORS & STAFF

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Alex Blum	Managing Editor
Cydney Wilson	Managing Editor
Sarah Wedeking	Layout Editor
Or-El Ankori	Layout Editor
Katherine Conlon	Co-News Editor
Ally Duvak	Co-News Editor
Matthew Baresh	Assistant News Editor
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Tom Hiller	Sports Editor
Matthew Baker-Grunza	Sports Editor
Rebecca Clark	Photo Editor
Keanna Peña	Editorial Assistant
Alex Caban-Echevarria	Copy Editor

MAILING ADDRESS

Muhlenberg College Box 0106
2400 West Chew Street
Allentown, PA. 18104

E-MAIL

weeklyeditor@gmail.com

WEBSITE

muhlenbergweekly.com

OFFICE PHONE

484-664-3195

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

04/18/2022
Prosser Hall: Report of fire alarm from aerosol spray, system silenced and reset.

04/19/2022
Chew & 22nd Streets: Report of fire alarm from cooking, system silenced and reset.

04/20/2022
M.I.L.E. House: Report of found credit card, owner notified, card placed in lost and found locker.
Seegers Union: Report of found key, key returned to housing to identify owner.

04/21/2022
Leh Street: Report of noise complaint, resident identified and spoken to, no further incident.
Brown Hall: Report of sick student, upon arrival student refused further treatment or transport.
Tilghman Street: Report of noise complaint, resident identified and spoken to, no further incident.

04/22/2022
Walz Hall: Report of vandalism to exit signs, Plant Operations notified to repair.
Walz Hall: Report of odor of marijuana, individuals identified and spoken to, paraphernalia brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker, referred to Dean of Students office.

04/23/2022
East Hall: Report of alcohol violation, Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.
Prosser Hall: Report of sick student, Muhlenberg College EMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety Officer.

04/24/2022
Gordon & 22nd Streets: Report of alcohol violation, individual identified and will also be issued a College Disruptive Conduct Policy Violation.
M.I.L.E. House: Report of unsecure door, residents spoken to, door closed.

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GENERAL'S
QUARTERS

The pandemic is messing with our mental health, do students know how to get help?

By Sarah O′Sullivan
Staff Writer

Dylan Schnur ‘24 walked into the Red Door Cafe on a Wednesday night to propose his pitch for Muhlenberg’s 12th annual Innovation Challenge. Facing two judges and a room filled with fellow students, professors and parents, Schnur flipped through a slideshow presenting his idea for a mental health peer-to-peer coaching model. He explained to the audience that as a student living on-campus during the fall 2020 semester, Schnur struggled to find resources to help him manage the stress and anxiety of the pandemic, so he set out to create one himself.

The transition to college has always been challenging for students, but the last few years have pushed mental health to the forefront. In 2019, nearly 30 percent of people between ages 18 and 25 reported a mental illness and in 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that one quarter of 18- to 24-year-olds surveyed seriously considered suicide in the past 30 days. The mental health crisis facing college students is likely to get worse considering the next group of incoming college students are currently facing similar issues according to the New York Times. Thirteen percent of adolescents reported having a major depressive episode in 2019, a 60 percent increase from 2007. Emergency room visits by children and adolescents in that period also rose sharply for anxiety, mood disorders and self-harm. The pandemic has led to a generation of traumatized teens and young adults.

Most colleges provide some level of in-house counseling or mental health care. Muhlenberg’s counseling center offers in-person and remote counseling through a customized care model, meaning students are able to access 45-50 minute long counseling sessions, either individually or in a group, with no limits on how many times they can access these sessions. In addition, emergency consultations are available 24/7. Their website offers further information about resources for self-help for students.

And while the website says that students are strongly advised to transition to a treatment provider in their community if they wish to engage in regular ongoing therapy, the vast majority of students stay on campus for their services, according to Timothy Silvestri, Ph.D, director of counseling services at the College and licensed psychologist.

Silvestri emphasizes that Muhlenberg “strive[s] to be highly adaptive to conversation between the clinician and the student needs,” meaning that each experience with the counseling center is highly individualized.

“Muhlenberg has so many wonderful services,” says Schnur, “I felt that whenever I needed to address a mental health concern Muhlenberg is and has always been there for me.”

Other students echoed this. “I would recommend [the counseling center] to people,” said one student who wished to remain anonymous to protect their medical privacy. “I′ve had positive experiences, but it′s really finding the right fit. Finding the right counselor can be challenging, but once you do, it can be really amazing.”

But even the most robust and effective mental health services are only effective if students understand how and when to access them. “To be honest, I’ve never used [counseling services] because I don’t know what they are,” says Molly Layden ‘24. And she’s not alone in her confusion of these services.

“I know that there’s the counseling center and that’s it. I know it’s in the same building as the gym,” says Lily Savino ‘23.

“I mean, I know that they have like 24 hour, like the emergency line,” says Ethan Lynch ‘22. “And I know that they do counseling services, you can have a therapist, and go to sessions, every week, or bi-weekly or something like that. I think that′s it, I don′t really know anything else.”

While most students seem to have a basic understanding of what Muhlenberg provides, confusion about how to access services could be detrimental to students who could really benefit from the help.

“I don’t think we do a good enough job of advertising [the services] to students,” says Lorenzo Antigua ‘24. “I’ve had this point of view and have had friends with the point of view that ‘I should only use those services if it’s something really bad.’ If I’m just feeling stressed out for like a week, to me that’s not enough for me to go to any type of service, and that’s the perception that needs to be fixed. I don′t necessarily think that’s something that the College is doing wrong, it’s just something that could be improved on.”

“It′s important for students to remember that we have a very strong network of support for students through our CARE team,” says Michele Deegan, dean of academic life and professor of political science. This team consists of administrators from student life and academic life who work together to help students facing health and wellness challenges, according to Deegan.

″I was here on campus in the fall during COVID,” says the anonymous student. “And again, it was tough, but that was tough for everyone. Your friends can be a great way to help, but sometimes it′s good to talk to a professional. I found that they can do much more because of their experience and, like outside perspective, wisdom that sometimes we′re unable to see. I just, I wish they had more. Just like more counselors.″

“I do think that it′s amazing that they′re telling people on campus to see counseling services, that is awesome,” says Renee Levine ‘22, co-president of the Body Positivity club on campus. “Let′s open up the conversation and let′s minimize the stigma towards mental health. But I do think students are ready to jump in. And then it′s like, well, I need to wait two weeks to schedule our next appointment, because other students need services as well.”

But Muhlenberg has a lower wait time for counseling compared to other higher education institutions and private practices where patients often wait 3-4 weeks. According to Silvestri, the College would have to quadruple the student wellness fee to provide weekly services to 2100 students, as it would most likely take more than 50 counselors to pull off that feat.

the 12th Annual
OVATION
ALLENGE
1st Place Award
Photo courtesy of @muhlenbergine on Instagram

Dylan Schnur ′24, secured a first place win at the Innovation Challenge for a mental health project.

Though the College is doing its best to offer effective and quick mental health services for all students, these services are only helpful if students take the initiative to access them. “When we reach out to students, we hope that they connect with one of us,” says Deegan, referring to the CARE team.

Students need to arm themselves with tools to help them get through tough times, like exams and break-ups, that all might feel so much harder because of the pandemic-related trauma. Silvestri has noticed that COVID has been a huge complicating factor for students, and—even if students aren’t talking directly about it—they feel stressed out. With the continued effects of the pandemic, there are underlying issues that are not yet visible.

Making sure that you are equipped for these long term effects in addition to the daily stressors of college life might mean signing up for a counselor, reaching out or responding to the CARE team or making sure you have tools on hand to help yourself. For example, Schnur proposed creating a tool that pairs students with peer counselors and workbooks so they can help themselves. This tool serves as a bridge between ‘everyday’ stressors and when they might need more formal mental health services offered by the College.

For Schnur, he says his proposal is not meant to replace any aspect of the normal Muhlenberg counseling center functions, but rather to strengthen and deepen the conversation surrounding mental health. And the idea of making mental health care more visible to college students clearly struck a nerve with the judges. Schnur went home that night with the $1,000 grand prize win.

It′s time to get out the vote

By Matthew Baresh
Asst. News Editor

With primary election day coming up on May 17, ‘Berg students are encouraged to register and vote in the Pennsylvania primary election. Students can register to vote online or by mail using the BergVotes tables located in Seegers Union on Apr. 28 or May 5. The deadline for online registration is May 2 and absentee ballot applications must be received by May 10. Students who will not be on campus on May 17 must request an absentee ballot. As for the voting process, students on campus on Election Day can cast their votes via the polling location in Seegers Union. Those who will not be on campus should vote by mail via their absentee ballots. All students are encouraged to take part in the voting process for electing Pennsylvania’s next U.S. Senator and governor. Candidates for Pennsylvania’s 7th Congressional district, 14th State Senate district and other local offices are also included in this primary election. Voting protects our democracy and can help change the future of the state and the nation, so remember to vote! More information regarding the voting process can be found at pa.gov, the official website for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Incidents of racial harassment spark outrage

By Katherine Conlon
Co-News Editor

On Apr. 24, the student body received an email from Dean of Students Allison Williams regarding racist incidents that occurred within two hours of each other that directly impacted the Muhlenberg community. Williams described the incidents stating, “In the first incident, racial epithets were yelled from a car toward students of color walking across campus near Chew Street and Seegers Union. The second incident occurred at an off campus party where it is alleged that students were denied entrance based on their race and where at least one racial epithet was used in the interaction.”

Williams continued in her email by enforcing the College’s policies and standards. Williams declared that “Muhlenberg College′s values are fully grounded in the belief that all members of our community should be treated with dignity and respect across their many identities. The College will not tolerate harassing or discriminating behavior based on race or any other protected identity at any time.” In addition, Williams defined the consequences for such behavior saying, “Any person or group found responsible for violations of the College′s policies in this regard will be held accountable to the fullest extent. Please understand the seriousness of this message and ensure that your words and actions are in line with the values and policies of the College at all times.”

As Student Body President, I would hope that every student is appalled by these incidents. I know for a fact that these incidents have deeply impacted communities of color on campus. Clearly, I cannot speak on behalf of anyone, but I do have a feeling that people are disgusted, but unfortunately not surprised, which is what I find most horrific. Students of color have become used to these kind of attacks that it almost becomes just another day. That is wrong. Fortunately, students of color are resilient and won′t allow those who are reckless, ignorant, and just blatantly racist destroy their spirit. Our community is stronger than such forces and will always fight back against injustice, no matter what form it takes.The Muhlenberg Weekly reached out to Williams, asking for a further comment. Williams went into extensive detail on how the investigative process operates saying, “Our first job when a complaint comes in is to assign a trained college investigator to the case. That individual is responsible for reviewing the initial reports, gathering a list of witnesses, collecting any evidence (photos, texts, camera footage, electronic communications, artifacts, etc.) and interviewing witnesses in order to put together a comprehensive investigative report... Once an investigative report is complete, that report is sent to the Office of Student Conduct or the Office of Equity and Title IX to determine if formal charges will be rendered against a student or student group and so that the adjudication process can begin.”

Student Government Association President Zaire Carter ‘22 believes these kinds of incidents have profound effects on Muhlenberg’s students of color. “As Student Body President, I would hope that every student is appalled by these incidents. I know for a fact that these incidents have deeply impacted communities of color on campus. Clearly, I cannot speak on behalf of anyone, but I do have a feeling that people are disgusted, but unfortunately not surprised, which is what I find most horrific. Students of color have become used to these kinds of attacks that it almost becomes just another day. That is wrong. Fortunately, students of color are resilient and won′t allow those who are reckless, ignorant, and just blatantly racist destroy their spirit. Our community is stronger than such forces and will always fight back against injustice, no matter what form it takes,” said Carter.

Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D. echoed Carter’s sentiments. “I wish I could say that racist incidents are surprising, but, unfortunately, they are not. In 2022, it should be utterly shocking that racial epithets could be hurled at students trying to enjoy a night out with their friends–that racial epithets would be hurled at all, at anyone. However, it is unsurprising because racism continues to permeate everything about our society; in fact, the most surprising aspect of it all is that some members of that same society deny this truth, which is precisely what allows it to remain a truth of our present and not only our past,” stated Kucik.

Williams stated that the College takes such incidents incredibly seriously saying, “I can tell you that over the past four years, we have worked very hard with students, administrators and our national associations to strengthen the policies and sanctions related to harassment and discrimination at the College. Racial epithets targeted directly at a member of a protected class in our community are clear examples of harassment that may result in expulsion or suspension from the College.”

Kucik summarized her views on the matter saying, “I want to add, though, that just because racism is not surprising does not mean it is not devastating. It is devastating. It is infuriating. It is exhausting. It is violent. And it has to stop. If it continues, it will become one of the defining features of not just our past and present, but our future. We often discuss the continuation of racism in 2022 as though it is produced and allowed by an unidentifiable source, but we— human beings— are the source. We are the continuation. We are either the racism or the anti-racism. At Muhlenberg, we need to ensure that every single day, every single time, until we create a Muhlenberg and a world in which there is no next time, we choose anti-racism and actively refuse to allow poisonous incidents like these to have a place here.”

Student writers honored with awards

By Alex Caban-Echevarria
Copy Editor

The Muhlenberg Weekly Journalism Awards and Edwin W. Miller Awards in Writing took place on Monday, Apr. 25. Held in the Great Room, the second annual event invited creative writing and journalism students to celebrate their work with a dinner and student readings, as well as honor seniors graduating with a minor in creative & professional writing with yellow roses and two excellence awards. The seniors graduating with this minor are the only ones, as the new name for it is creative writing & journalism.

The Journalism Awards consisted of automatically entered news or BergBeat articles published in The Muhlenberg Weekly by currently enrolled students. News and BergBeat articles from the 2021 calendar year were judged by faculty in different departments as well as alumni from The Muhlenberg Weekly. BergBeat is magazine-style journalism produced from the narrative journalism class.

The judges read over 50 pages of writing and determined that the first place general news prize would be awarded to “The Allentown housing crisis: the fight for affordable housing” by Katherine Dickey ’22, for her reporting about the affordable housing crisis in Allentown. Second place was awarded to “From prison to ‘Berg: The story of Jose Rivera” by Alex Blum ’22, for his piece on Jose Rivera’s work in Allentown.

The winners were awarded cash prizes generously provided by a Weekly alumni, Aletia Morgan ’80. As the former photo editor at The Weekly, Morgan believes that the campus community benefits from student staff and wanted to recognize the time they volunteer. She hopes to encourage student journalism as the strong student voice at Muhlenberg. On Twitter, she wrote, “The Muhlenberg Weekly gave me purpose, sanity and joy during my college years.”

The panel of judges also determined the first and second place prizes for featured stories from BergBeat and the opinion and editorial section. The winners included “The Sad Fate of ‘Recyclable’ Plastic” by Amanda Clark ’22 and “Our lives will never be the same again” by Katie Behling ’22 for BergBeat. “Considering the ethics of family vlogging” by Brianna Kovit ’23 and “We too deserve to smile” by Mustafa Hall ’23 won first and second prizes respectively for op/ed.

The Edwin W. Miller Awards in Writing were determined by the top six places in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama. The final prize was the Excellence in Creative Writing Award, given to Ally Duvak ’22 and Caya Greenspan-Layman ’22. Duvak comments, “Receiving this award was a huge surprise and an honor. I had no idea that I was being considered. I’m so thankful not only for the award but for the last couple of years I’ve spent learning and growing in the creative writing program. It wasn’t something I got involved with until my junior year and I can say with confidence that it really changed and improved my college experience and the (hopeful) trajectory of my future career.”

The top six pieces in each category were reviewed by professional writers and received comments on their submissions. Honorable mentions were awarded for each genre. In fiction, “I used to have my mother’s eyes” by Honeyjo Yanko ’25 won first place. There was a tie for first place in poetry with “Not Your N.B.C.” by Oyinkan Adebajo and Sophia Naghski ′24’s collection entitled ″Blooming Earthward″ winning. There was a three-way tie in nonfiction with the essay collection, “Series of Sequential Shifts″ by Carina Filemyr ‘23, the manuscript ″Welcome Home & Other Essays″ by Libby Bergier-Pesier ‘23, and the essay ″Double-Barreled Blues″ by Greenspan-Layman placing first. The last category, drama, was awarded to “The Mud” by Bridget Palermo ‘25. Greenspan-Layman noted, “It was a pleasure to read to a room full of writers because they all understand the sort of work that goes into writing, and I very much enjoyed the opportunity to hear other students read, as well.”

Photo by Grace Oddo ′22

Ally Duvak ′22 smiling and holding her award

After dinner and the receiving of awards, six students read their creating writing for those in attendance. The readings included, “I used to have my mother’s eyes” and “The Mud.” Yanko explains, “It was honestly thrilling. I went into the night having no expectations. I wasn’t expecting to receive anything, as I viewed myself as ‘only a freshman.’ I honestly thought I would only get an honorable mention, as Professor Miller asked me to read my work. When she said my name, though, everything clicked. It was suddenly like, ‘Oh, that makes sense in retrospect.’ I loved sharing my work with everyone.”

"When you become the image of your own imagination, it's the most powerful thing you could ever do."

- RuPaul

The seventh annual "Drag Extravaganza" dominates the Great Room

By Johnny Veglia
Co-A&C Editor

The world of drag has been dominating television thanks to "RuPaul's Drag Race," but the performance art dominated the Great Room as well this past weekend. The seventh annual "Drag Extravaganza" electrified audience members and the Muhlenberg community on Saturday, Apr. 23. The Great Room was filled with pride flags, confetti, vibrant lighting, food and even alcohol for attendees of age.

The doors opened at 9:30 p.m. and the line was out the door to the entrance of Seegers Union with excited attendees of the show. The Great Room then opened and audience members stormed into the space, grabbing their seats on the floor, at tables or anywhere where there was space. The song selections helped to liven up the environment with "Coconuts" by Kim Petra and "Sissy That Walk" by the queen of drag, RuPaul.

The five drag performers then entered with a fashionably late opening and vibrant outfits to liven up the space. Ben Dover, portrayed by Rebecca Ostrow '20, the host for the event, introduced the audience to the beautiful and exciting drag queens, kings and everything in between. The drag performers were then met with thunderous claps of applause.

"The audience was so loud and large that it made it feel like we were on an island and it was so energetic it was electric," stated Hannah Michelson '22, an audience member.

Members of the crowd cheered on the performers and shook the house with their excitement and support.

"The audience absolutely energized the whole show! We have been rehearsing these songs for each other and in our rooms alone, and doing drag in silence is just not that fun. I was shocked at the amount of people who came out, and I wanted to make sure everyone was having a good time so it really pushed me to give it my all," stated Nora Hardee '22, a drag king.

Hardee dominated the stage as Payne Blagel, a clever pun on the classic bagel, showcased a masculine costume with leather straps and even a strap-on dildo. Ben Dover reminded audiences that the entire costume was paid for by 'Berg, resulting in an eruption of applause from the audience.

Hardee declared, "While I chose 'I Just Had Sex' for my first song because of the silliness and the story that it had, I actually chose 'Where Them Girls At' for the finale because it has been a favorite pump-up song between myself and my roommates! Not to mention, it gave me a chance to get all of the queens to join me on stage."

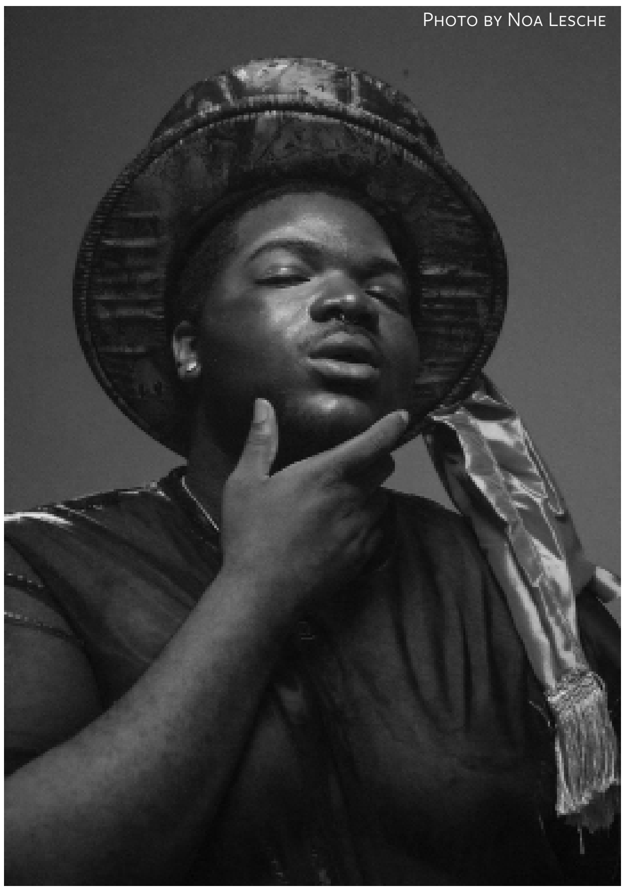
Photo by Noa Lesche

Eiluj Negratude '23 looking good for the camera

Other songs included "Alice" by Lady Gaga, "Hypnotico" by Jennifer Lopez and more. The "Drag Extravaganza" included lip sync performances that continued the famous drag traditions of "Rupaul's Drag Race" while also allowing for exciting audience participation.

Benji Eber '23, the current Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President, took to the stage to partake in the lip sync competition. Luke Poleway '22 and Eber battled it out against the pop music hit, "Telephone" by Lady Gaga featuring Beyoncé.

"Going up on stage, it was definitely unexpected, but I had a fun time even though I was not the best dancer up there," stated Eber.

Both of the lip sync battles embodied the iconic quote by RuPaul, "Don't fuck it up."

Eber added, "It was a really great opportunity to see all the different drag performers and see SGA's money put to good use in a great community that needs uplifting."

The other lip sync battle featured an exhilarating battle between Byrson Brunson '25 and Zach Rabishaw '22, who joined the night as Matzah Bell. Their iconic song was "Toxic" by the one and only Britney Spears.

Michelson continued, "My favorite drag performer was either Mustafa Hall ['23]'s performance and the audience performer Bryson Brunson ['25] showed up and ate!"

Hall took audience members to Wonderland with their dragsona, Eiluj Negritude, and helped to plan the event with Edwin Alvarez '22, who portrayed Santa Maria.

"Because I did 'Alice' by Lady Gaga, I knew I had to take some elements from 'Alice in Wonderland' without making it tacky," stated Hall. "I also really wanted to do a very psychedelic, acid trip kind of vibe with my makeup and with parts of my outfit. So I really wanted a lot of color, a lot of sparkle, a lot of pop."

The costumes for every performer helped to highlight the electricity of each song and extended the energy of the evening. The props also helped to add even more fun energy, such as the steering wheel for Betty Bottoms' iconic performance with "Jesus Take the Wheel" by Carrie Underwood thanks to Jeff Varrone '22. The wigs were also another key factor, such as the blue wig for Baby Blue, portrayed by Nico Bittker '22.

Hall made sure to accomplish this with colorful and vibrant costume pieces. "I reflected that in my shoes, the biker shorts I was wearing, the mesh shirt I was wearing, was very blue, very purple, elements of green and also just a very bold face makeup look," continued Hall.

Michelson finalized, "My favorite part was the unapologetic celebration of queer culture and life on campus, I just felt like I could be loud and myself while enjoying it with my friends."

"Each and every one of us had a different persona which embodies the variety of the queer community and how unqiue everyone is. But I also feel the music that we chose, the playlist, I specifically wanted to be powered by queer people and queer artists. I wanted every element to be the show to be very queer," concluded Hall.

"Top Naach Wedding" to celebrate Holi

By Danny Milkis
Co-A&C Editor

On Saturday Apr. 23 at 1:30 p.m., Top Naach, Muhlenberg's South Asian Cultural Association and dance team, hosted an annual festival to commemorate Holi, the spring festival of colors and love. The performance took place in the Event Space, and was complete with decorations and a number of traditional Indian dishes, which were available for consumption by the public.

The event attracted a crowd, which included a number of faculty and students, who packed both the provided seating areas and open space against the outer walls. Additionally, Top Naach blocked off the front row of seats for family members of the performers.

After a few minutes, the organization's executive board members addressed the crowd, thanking the Office of Multicultural Life for its direct involvement and support in the success of this event, as well as all of the student organizations that participated.

Other dance ensembles on campus opened for Top Naach, including Copacetic Rhythms, the Mayhem Step Team, MINT and Perkulators.

After that, Top Naach took the stage, presenting the story of two Muhlenberg students, portrayed by Syeda Islam '23 and Noah Mayan Ryall '25, who met and fell in love on campus, and how they took part in a traditional South Asian wedding ceremony three years later.

Top Naach Treasurer Shivani Iyer '23 said, "When it came to choosing a theme for our performance, we really wanted to do something different from past years so that we were both educating and entertaining the audience. This really led us to the theme of a wedding where we could showcase some fun traditions commonly associated with certain types of Indian weddings."

Iyer also shared insights about the

SEE HOLI PAGE 6

MDA gets hooked on ″Digital Dopamine″

Photo by Rebecca Clark ′23

The cast of ″#fyp #foryou #foryoupage″

By Ian Clark
Asst. A&C Editor

Technology changes and evolves every single day, and along with it so does one's relationship with it. Whether it is for school, work or entertainment, technology has found its way to be ingrained in many portions of one's life. This is especially true in recent years where, in the midst of COVID, virtual interaction may be the only safe way of communication for some people. Observing this world we live in got the wheels turning in the heads of Gianna Carnevalino '23 and Visiting Professor of Dance Natalie Gotter, who came together to direct the Muhlenberg Dance Association's concert "Digital Dopamine." The show sought to tackle these questions about the world through the medium of dance, seeing the ups and downs of technology, the different ways it affects different people, and questioning the place of technology in our world as a whole. Along with this, every piece in the concert was choreographed and performed by students making this show unique both in the themes and the production.

Having student choreographers allowed for a wide range of perspectives to be shown, especially from a generation that is arguably most affected by this new technological age. Choreographer Bekka Broyles '22 described the process in creating her piece "Call Me Back" from Broyles' perspective. "I wanted to create a piece about how technology connects us. I′m from Texas, so I′ve had to maintain a lot of my relationships over FaceTime, texts and calls. Drawing from my own experience and the experiences of my cast, which featured relationships between siblings, parents, friends, partners and teachers." Broyles' unique perspective on the uses of technology allowed her to create a unique piece for "Digital Dopamine" that featured original piano composition that was paired with voicemails from the cast themselves, allowing the dancers not only the chance to dance to the music but dance to spoken word as well, something not seen in most dance pieces.

Talking about uniqueness, this feeling didn't extend to just the dancers but to the crew as well. Lighting Designer and Production Stage Manager Sam Powers '22 commented that, "Seeing each choreographer's vision come to life on stage was magical." Powers has worked on countless productions at Muhlenberg, but interestingly enough this was his first dance show. Powers said, "I am happy that I got the opportunity to work so closely with my fellow students before I graduate in May. This production really allowed me to explore beyond the typical theatrical conventions of lighting a show which made it so rewarding to see the final product."

Another piece, "Match," choreographed by Nicole Lamprinos '24, presents a similar yet different take on technology. Lamprinos talked about her process in making this piece saying, "To me, [technology] is a very large and nuanced topic which inspired me to take a lighthearted and humorous approach." Lamprinos set her piece to Nat King Cole's "L-O-V-E" and with two dancers on stage, Riley Overton '24 and Samantha Torrillo '25 (with Melanie Halbert '24 as an understudy), Lamprinos showed the way technology can be used as a tool to create and foster relationships. This choice in the song was wonderfully on the nose and executed. Lamprinos also commented, "A fun memory from the show was hearing the audience laugh at the ending pose of my piece each show!"

Throughout every piece, the idea of collaboration between the choreographer and dancers is very clear. For Erika Dubin '22, collaboration was a key part of the process in choreographing her piece, "Disengagementship." Dubin talked about the process in making her piece and how in her mind, "Technology is not just good or bad. It is complicated, as are most things." Dubin continued on how she worked to present this mindset on technology with her dancers. "Change, adapt, and create what came to be my dance. One of my favorite things is being able to come up with an idea and watch it grow into something more. Movement can look so different in my head, and once it is put on other bodies, it changes the storyline and what I could have originally meant the movement to be. Tap dance specifically can be challenging as movements can be less gestural but are more telling through sound and rhythm. I told my story of communication through the separation and synchronicity of sound."

Anna Wren Dahbura '25, a performer in "numbing - numb - denumbing" stated, "I found working with a student choreographer to be extremely refreshing. The whole creative process of this show was extremely collaborative between dancer and choreographer. Throughout the rehearsal process my castmates and I were graciously provided creative freedom for certain parts of the piece. Having creative liberty in this setting truly made it much easier for me to relate to the content being assembled and further performed."

"Performance is a craft that truly relies on other energies in a space to increase productivity. This show truly wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication that was put into each and every detail, it was truly a pleasure working with everyone," finalized Wren Dahbura.

From **Holi** page 5

planning and choreography for the festival. She said, "In terms of choreo[graphy], we also wanted [to] showcase different dance styles in addition to our typical Bollywood style. This semester we were able to bring in elements of bhangra (a form of Punjabi folk dance), classical styles like kathak/Bharathnatyam and also raas."

An audio presentation, which included a combination of voiceover work and musical numbers, provided a narrative explanation of the story of Krishna and Radha, shared many traditions of South Asian weddings. According to the story, Krishna worried that his bride Radha would not accept him due to his dark blue skin. Krishna's mother, Yashoda, suggested that he smear some coloured powder on Radha′s face.

In the spirit of the message of the story, the ensemble was shown painting the faces and extremities of the bride and groom during the ceremony with a blue turmeric paste.

Sruti Sailam '23, public relations chair for Top Naach, shared, "It was so exciting to hear that the audience learned about South Asian culture through the performance including the significance of the Haldi ceremony, what henna represents and the stories behind Holi."

"I was so proud of how Holi turned out and how it all came together in the end," explained Iyer. "It required a lot of effort on the part of the eboard and choreographers to put something new together, especially after not having experienced our own Holi since coming to Muhlenberg."

After the performance, the festival took a 10 minute intermission, and guests were encouraged to join Top Naach on the college green to enjoy the sunny afternoon playing with colored powders.

"I haven't experienced that much open, unconditional joy since I was 12 [years old] playing with water balloons," said Isabelle Peters '24, about the outdoor festivities.

Iyer added, "My favorite part of the whole event was definitely throwing colors. This was actually my first time actually celebrating Holi, because my family who come from a southern region of India, also did not grow up celebrating it. So being able to experience it with a big group of my friends and peers is something I don't think I will ever forget."

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Pliés as protests

By Sarah O'Sullivan
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Sarah O'Sullivan

Students instinctually remove their shoes as they enter. At first there isn't much to see, the space is grand in size, but is mainly empty. It's filled with 8-foot high mirrors, and the students are welcomed by gray walls and non-natural lighting with the power to warp anyone's sense of time. Yet it is not the lack of light that prevails most powerful.

A girl enters the space, one in a crowd, and she begins to prepare for class. She pulls her hair into a ponytail, and sheds the layers of clothing which had kept her guarded in the outside world. She was home, she finally felt safe.

With a single,"Okay... and!," the teacher begins class, allowing dancers to use their bodies to speak. To speak about their pain, frustration, happiness, and hone their abilities to tell stories and revolutionize. In spite of the dialogue and the music, the studio is there to listen. The girl's body visibly relaxes into the movement, and in a split second she is overwhelmed with emotions. While it was easy for her to repress her thoughts, and not always speak her mind, her body spoke for her, and she could no longer hide in her mind.

These dancers are not merely dancing, but preparing for battle.

In dance, the body is so often the most expressive aspect of the work, and the visual aspects of dance often speak for themself — which is why dance lends itself so well to protest, activism and dissension. Natalie Gotter, visiting assistant professor of modern dance and dance education at Muhlenberg College, focuses her teaching on the fully embodied intellectual and somatic understanding of movement, in addition to the social relationships of the body. For Gotter, the significance of dance as protest is equal regardless of the formality or informality of the setting. "When we live in a society that oppresses bodies as a way of controlling people, it only makes sense that the body becomes the tool of protest and activism," says Gotter. Arianna Tilley '22, a dancer and choreographer at Muhlenberg College, believes this form of activism is even more important because of the accessibility of dance. Tilley believes that dance is so accessible in meaning and interpretation in ways that other forms of artwork are not. "People self tune out words. You can't really tune out movement, you can't really tune out emotion or feeling," says Tilley. "If you close your eyes, would you not feel the energy of the dance and of the space?"

Using the body as a way to protest opens up the amount of people who can understand and connect through activism. Language can create barriers between people who do not speak or understand the same language, and as a result, often limits the way activism can exist among different cultures and different societies. Yet, in dance, the body and the movement of the body creates its own language. Even if the audience can not identify the dance terminology and language which exist in the movement phrases, they can identify the emotionality and the humanness present in the dance. The versatility of how dance is used and the accessibility of dance is a result of the connections we form through our emotions.

Groups of dance students chatter in hushed tones as they gather in the audience of Baker Theater, bonding through their complaints of homework, and weekend planning. As the room darkens, a screen illuminates, and the students fall silent, listening as George W. Bush's voice fades in, watching as what began as a black and white film fades into a colorful scene, and dancers of all different identities are brought together to utilize their bodies to tell a story. Their bodies reveal the emotional reality of the past year — the toll of the pandemic, and the toll of the continued impact of racism. The theater is full for a screening of Earl Mosley's Unconquered. Unconquered is Mosley's recent screendance, a dance film created with the intention of the choreography and performance being viewed on screen, rather than filming dance created for typical spaces like theatres and studios. Screendances, especially Unconquered, situate the world of dance in our everyday society, rather than in separate dance-only spaces. Unconquered spawned important discussions about human connection, and about making change in the community. Mosley is the founder and artistic director of Diversity of Dance, and developed this screendance after finding inspiration from the natural and organic dancing observed in the streets during protests. He does not consider Unconquered a choreographic piece, but rather an opportunity to use his choreography to unite people and ignite social justice and conversations. "We need to use our art as a service to make change."

In 2020 and 2021, amid the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, dance became an even more powerful tool for justice and social change. Yet, the roots of dance activism have existed long before. Around 1928, New York's New Dance Group advocated for dance as a "weapon in the revolutionary class struggle." However, the origins of dance protests began as early as the 1860s, with the emergence of the CakeWalk as a new dance style. The CakeWalk developed from southern plantations where enslaved Black people would imitate the dances they saw the plantation owners performing (called cakewalks because the winning dancers would win a cake). The dance is an expression of Black pride and joy, and is one example of Black dance being used to protest against systemic racism. Many other racially focused dance protests have existed throughout history, most recently seen after the death of George Floyd in 2020, with a gathering by the organization Dance for George in which they performed the Electric Slide. Another racially focused dance protest was seen after the death of Ezell Ford in 2014, when dancers gathered outside the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters to learn social dances created in Black communities, using this joyful connected movement as a protest. In June 2020, hip hop dancer, MiRi Park, created a public Google document which included an extensive list of dance protests across the country, and further research on the history of dance protest and social movement studies.

A native of Philadelphia, Robyn Watson finds she is always in a space of protest. As a dancer and dance educator, her work in tap dance is focused on telling stories. Her recent project The Blackbird Suites included the narrative of life as a Black woman from a historical point of view. "Being socially identified as a Black woman is already an act of protest when you maneuver into spaces that at times are not originally designed for you," says Watson, a visiting lecturer of tap at Muhlenberg College. "And the protest is not receiving or seeking validation from those cultivators of that space, but in myself when I'm secure in what I'm doing." Tap dance combines visual aspects of protest, with auditory aspects as a result of the sounds of the shoes, which, when combined, can amplify and intensify the statement the dance is making.

Watson finds it is most natural for her to lean into protesting and responding through her dance. "If we look at the definition of protest being a statement of something that you are for or against, and if you are identifying dances dialogue, then your dance can be the dialogue of the statement of something that you are for and against." While protests often evoke thoughts of a specific image of loud chants, signs, and marches on the street, Watson adds that protest can be more intimate than we think.

And for Tilley, her recent choreography from Muhlenberg College's Reset: New Dances, titled "Living Color: As Told By Us," explores the connection between people of color who have the same or similar experiences that she has had. She created the work to emphasize the feeling of community found in dance, as seen through her dancers. Their pain, frustration, fears, and joys are expressed through the use of their voices onstage, but when they are together, their faces show their strength, and the power they hold together, dancing.

Meanwhile, as students walk past the quiet studio the dancers' protest goes unnoticed until a sudden chorus of claps emerges from inside. The students finish their class by thanking the teacher, the music, and each other. In spite of their sore bodies, the dancers float out of the Dance Studio Theatre, some of the weight of their frustrations alleviated in the 80 minutes. The dancer begins to reapply her clothing layers, each layer adding the weight of work, of injustice, of reality. Though she will go to her next class and most likely avoid participating, she knows she has said all she had been wanting to say. "Dance as protest is a way of saying 'I'm here, my experiences matter, I matter,'" says Gotter who believes the primary role of dance is to serve as a reaction to social, religious, and political oppression. "It can be joyful, it can be painful, but it is always powerful."

This article was originally published online for the BergBeat.

I showed up and never left... until now

By Katherine Dickey
Editor-In-Chief

During the fall of my sophomore year, my personal life was fraught. I didn't have many friends, I was struggling with my mental health and classes were hard. One night, I was walking to my professor's evening office hours when I got the call: my grandpa's cancer had metastasized to his brain and was likely inoperable and therefore terminal. I sat on a bench on academic row and sobbed for a little while before pulling myself together and going to my professor's office in the basement of Seegers to talk to her about my upcoming paper.

When I entered the antechamber to her office, coincidentally The Weekly's office, I was surrounded by laughter and a glow of camaraderie that couldn't quite penetrate my shield of sadness, but warmed me nonetheless. I spent a couple of minutes speaking to Sara Vigneri, explaining my situation, and she suggested I spend some time with the students of The Weekly so I didn't have to be alone during such a difficult time. I sat down at the table and left an hour or so later feeling lighter than I had in weeks, with an invitation to come back the next week.

So I came back, again and again, writing stories occasionally, but mostly just helping others refine their writing and deciding where commas went. I stayed later and later each night, until I was declared an editorial assistant and was designated to stay until the paper was finished at some early hour of Wednesday morning. Eventually, at the end of my sophomore year (due to some editorial reshuffling and confusion), I was offered the position of Editor-in-Chief. I spent the summer of 2020 learning how to administrate our website and working on a couple of high impact stories about racism and departmental changes with writers between my summer classes and attending protests myself.

″Knowing I have a safe space every week to come and joke and fight about comma placement and grammar has buoyed my heart and soul and allowed me to blossom as a leader and as a person.″

In the fall, I led our editorial board for the first couple of issues, before I had to step down due to newly diagnosed health issues, leaving The Weekly in the eminently capable hands of Cydney Wilson. I took the year off from school as well, working at a brewery and deeply missing my educational and editorial pursuits. When I returned for my senior year, I was offered the position of Managing Editor, as Cydney knew how much it would mean to me to return to the paper.

This year has been one of the healthiest and happiest of my life. Working with our editorial board and individual writers on our news product every Tuesday has been a huge part of that. Knowing I have a safe space every week to come and joke and fight about comma placement and grammar has buoyed my heart and soul and allowed me to blossom as a leader and as a person. I have met some of the smartest and kindest people I know through The Weekly. Serving as its Editor-in-Chief this last semester has allowed me to lead them in making a product I am truly proud of. Though our first production night was a little rough, with names misspelled and commas gone astray, we have become a well-oiled machine over the past 12 weeks, and now there's very little we couldn't achieve. We've planned a formal, created three new initiatives, and made memories to last a lifetime. Though I may have joined the paper by just showing up sad one night, it has meant more to me in the past years than anyone could know. Though I'm sad to relinquish my green leather seat in The Weekly office, I hope some sad current or future Muhlenberg student will find the amazing community we've built just as comforting as I did that first night, and use that feeling to build something even greater.

The art of shaking off the cobwebs

Or: how The Weekly led me back to where I belong.

By Ally Duvak
Co-News Editor

In my senior bio for my high school musical, I stated proudly that I was going to Muhlenberg College to double major in theatre and media & communication. Though I did go to the college, I did not major in either of those things. Instead, I am about to graduate with an English major and minors in creative writing and French. And I think, in part, The Weekly might be to blame.

Or to thank. Maybe.

When we were sent home during the spring semester of my sophomore year, a lot of things turned on their head for me. One of the seemingly small things, in the wake of everything else, was the addition of a new extracurricular. My first articles clearly reflected the thoughts of a student body still reeling from a brand new pandemic. I didn't think anything of it, just dutifully sending emails and texting friends for soundbytes before putting it all together as I, too, coped with this so-called new normal.

But what I was really doing was getting back into an old hobby: writing. I started writing before I knew how to, filling blank notebook pages with scribbles before I knew how to construct letters. Then dictating stories for others to write. Then writing on my own, filling pages with fantasy stories and crafting words for fun.

Unfortunately, despite my love of writing, it was a hobby I fell out of thanks to a busy schedule and, occasionally, self-consciousness. That's where The Weekly came in. The quick turnaround times on articles meant that I didn't have time to think too hard. I just had to write. And write I did, without doubt or hesitation.

At the same time, I had begun to take creative writing classes during the gaps in my schedule. Between those deadlines and the ones imparted by The Weekly, I was writing more than I had in years. And then I began to write for fun again. And then I committed to a creative writing minor. And then, at the tail end of my junior year, there was a new proposition: the opportunity to edit. And then... well, look at me now.

I didn't know that falling back in love with writing would also entail screaming about Taylor Swift with Katie Conlon and Ayden Levine, occasionally bullying Tom Hiller (mostly for being Team Jake Gyllenhaal) and fighting (and losing) battles on behalf of the Oxford comma... but here I am. Thanks to The Weekly jostling me back into writing, I have had the opportunity to travel to writing conferences, have seen a play of mine presented onstage and have reaped rewards for writing projects of mine. And it all started with me sending a text message asking if I could write an article.

College, to put it frankly, has not been what I expected. Seventeen year old me who wrote that senior bio in her Footloose program would have been terrified if she had known what was in store. But these unexpected things were, truly, mostly good. And The Weekly was one of those good, unexpected things that led to even more good, unexpected things.

″College, to put it frankly, has not been what I expected. Seventeen year old me who wrote that senior bio in her Footloose program would have been terrified if she had known what was in store. But these unexpected things were, truly, mostly good.″

Thanks, Weekly folks. For coming up with witty titles when I struggled to. For tolerating my cranky moods when my midday coffee wore off. For giving me quotes when all other sources failed. And for cheering for me with gusto when I did win a writing award. In short: for being my friends. You got me to dust off the cobwebs and I'm pretty sure it has changed the trajectory of my life. And for that, I'm really, truly grateful.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Paige's Page

By Paige Weisburg
Senior Staff Writer

Hey besties! Happy last weekly edition of the semester. Obviously you can't see me while I'm writing this but it is a really bittersweet experience to be saying this. I am lucky enough to have one more semester at Muhlenberg, but so many people's time here is winding down. I am so thankful for the opportunity I have been given to write this column for you all to read every week and I'm so excited to have more time to continue to answer your questions. As I am being constantly reminded that my days here are numbered, I am also drowning in papers, tests and social obligations. My head is all over the place and thus I finally arrive upon our theme for this week, which is there is no theme. You have all asked me some really interesting questions so let′s get started!

Q Hi Paige! How do I navigate picking classes for next semester? There are so many classes that I want to take but I also need to fill my GARs and not overwhelm myself.

Hey bestie, I know I may be a little late on this one, but because open registration starts this week, I think it gives you a lot of time to maybe reevaluate the courses you picked for this upcoming semester. My freshman year, my FYS advisor and I created a chart of the classes I needed to take and when I would need to take them to be on track and that helped me a lot, even though I was three different majors with three different sets of requirements my freshman year. Seeing your time laid out in front of you allows you to see where gaps exist where you can take fun classes. Honestly I wasn't really the best at this because I have always been the kind of person that is very future-oriented, and this did not allow me to have as much fun as I would have liked with regards to my classes. However, this upcoming semester, which is my last, I am taking super fun classes that are taking me out of my comfort zone. If I were you, I would not wait like I did to have a chance to do that. Create a balance for yourself, because if you don't have any classes you look forward to, you aren't going to feel motivated to excel which is really hard if you are the kind of person asking this question. Good luck!

Q Hey Paige, I have a really hard time adjusting to home life vs. school life whenever we go on break or home for summer. I miss college life and my friends here even though I love home. How do you find a good balance?

Hi bestie, I get this so much! I don't know if this is something that other people experience, but I am the worst person probably ever at keeping in touch. It is a quality that I really don't like about myself, but a lot of the time, if I'm not being continually reminded that you are there and you like me, I will likely not reach out. Same goes for my home friends, I don't speak to most of them unless I'm home. Adjusting between the two spaces is incredibly difficult. I know for me and many of my friends, being home especially after quarantining for so long, and existing in the bedrooms where they grew up for long periods of time can be so scary and really difficult to do because it feels like regression. At college, I have gained so much independence and I have really grown into myself, and while I love my hometown it can be hard to bring that feeling back home sometimes. Being home over the summer can be especially hard because my friends here are so scattered that a lot of times I don't know what to do with myself. At school, I always have a person to grab a meal with or sit and talk to but we all have our own lives outside of the "Muhlenbubble." With all of that being said, I think the best way I have found to adjust to breaks is to find times where you and your friends can meet to spend time together. Obviously that won't be as regular, but that time together is so special. Also, find places that are special for you, by yourself in your hometown or the general area of your hometown. For example I have a favorite coffee shop, a favorite thrift store, and multiple favorite driving paths that whenever I need an escape I can rely on those places to be like a bridge between the place I am and the place I may want to be. To return to the beginning of my answer, reach out to your friends, FaceTime, text, send each other TikToks that remind you of them. Appreciate your time apart because it will make your time together even more fun and special.

Q Hi Paige, how do you handle a roommate who never contributes financially to any of the shared things? We have talked multiple times but I always end up paying.

Hey bestie! This is super tough! I'm so sorry this is happening to you. I'm surprised that talking about it has not created a change! This year my suitemates and I each put $20 each aside for things we may need for our shared space. I thought that was a great idea because then there is no issue with paying each other back because you can just use the shared money. I would maybe propose something like that so you don't feel like you're constantly asking them for money. If this does not work, maybe you both have to start owning things separately so that this is not a problem. If they have an issue with it you can maybe try having a conversation about shared resources again. I really hope that you're able to work things out.

You can submit questions to https://tinyurl.com/paigespagequestion. It will also be linked in my Instagram bio— @paigeweisburg and in the Muhlenberg Weekly Instagram Linktree.

A tribute to the story

By Grace Oddo
Senior Staff Writer

I had just been through a breakup with the theatre major, and the divorce settlement was by no means amicable.

My dreams of acting professionally were quickly dashed with a few signatures and a confirmation from the registrar early into my sophomore year. I was sad, but couldn't say I was surprised—I knew in my heart that I just couldn't keep up. I once looked at Broadway stars like Sutton Foster and Bernadette Peters and swore I would be just like them—only to soon resent the very thing that once gave me so much joy. The magic of live theatre had worn off.

Besides, my gut was telling me that I needed to be doing something else—something that I was truly passionate about. But what WAS I passionate about? I like the Buffalo Bills and a nice cup of coffee, but can't major in that. Great. Guess my quarter-life crisis was coming a few years early.

I sat down not only with myself but with my dad, who helped me figure out next steps. "Well Gracie, you know that you've always been a writer," he said to me. He was right. I had been spinning tales on paper as soon as I could hold a pencil. Friends and stuffed animals everywhere were subjected to my infamous "story times." Some drawings on some construction paper were by no means in the running for a Pulitzer, but they were the seeds that would soon sprout into a lifelong passion. I just didn't have the confidence to chase it yet.

My new major was media and communication, with a minor in creative and professional writing. The media/com world was my oyster, and a wide-eyed, recently-divorced theatre kid had no idea where to start.

″Each piece was in its own way therapeutic; it gave me a space to both stay connected with my Muhlenberg community while simultaneously reckoning with what had become my youth. With each word I wrote, I grew up a little.″

"Try WMUH," the station manager told me. "The only station that matters!"

"What about MBC?" said the president. "You can have your own cooking show."

It wasn't until I found myself sitting across from Mustafa Hall '23 at the Wood Dining Commons that I knew where I needed to be. "So, you'd like to write for The Weekly?" he asked me, his smile big and his eyes kind. I told him that I had had no journalistic experience. He didn't care. "If you have something to say, I want to hear it."

As enthusiastic as I was about becoming a Weekly writer, it was poorly-timed—just a few weeks after I published my first article, we were sent home. Yet, I used this as an opportunity to write about the world around me. I poured my grief, my agony and my anxieties onto the page, calling out into the seemingly empty Muhlenberg void in hopes that someone would hear. I wrote pieces about grocery stores and the anti-mask movement and my debilitating fear that Trump would win again. Each piece was in its own way therapeutic; it gave me a space to both stay connected with my Muhlenberg community while simultaneously reckoning with what had become my youth. With each word I wrote, I grew up a little.

As I reflect on my time at Muhlenberg and at The Weekly, I think about this growth and how it has shaped me not only as a writer, but as a person. I think about the people who have been there for me—Bestie(s) Mustafa, Tom, Cydney, Kat. I am so grateful for your friendship. I sincerely thank The Weekly for taking a lost theatre kid and shaping her into someone who loves journalism, loves chasing the story, and loves the process. I have that confidence now.

‘Berg athletics choke in the CC

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Sports Editor

photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics Department

Henty Brown ‘22 looking at the camera.

Out of the 22 teams competing for Muhlenberg this year, the only teams to make the Centennial Conference playoffs were cross country, wrestling and golf. (Football won the conference based on regular season record.) All of these teams had automatic bids to the CC Championships at the beginning of the season. Once at the championships, the teams played poorly with wrestling finishing sixth out of seven, women’s and men’s cross country finishing eighth out of 10 and men’s golf finishing sixth out of seven. On the cusp of qualifying for Centennial Conference Playoffs this week are softball and lacrosse, two teams that started off their seasons with tremendous potential competing against some of the best teams in the nation, but who then failed to bring the same caliber of competition and skill against in-conference opponents.

When asked about the men’s team’s recent performance in the playoffs, captain Joel Hark tried to explain their results saying, “All our guys have the ability to play great golf, we just needed some more time and good weather for better outcomes. Us seniors feel the team is in good hands for their next season.”

When researching how the other teams performed this year within the Centennial Conference, the scene was just as bleak. After compiling the end of season Centennial Conference seedings for all ‘Berg sports and their opponents, Muhlenberg’s average seeding across all the sports except football is the lowest average seed compared to all other Centennial Conference opponents at a value of approximately 7.8. By comparison: Ursinus College averaged a seed of 6.6 across all sports that it competes in and Franklin & Marshall College (F&M) averaged 4.2.

This poor performance was not predictable in many cases. The baseball team started off their season 12-4, then on Mar. 30 they played their first conference opponent and went on a 10 game losing streak until Apr. 16. Since this streak, the team has failed to recover their overall or in-conference records. This is not out of lack of talent or an extremely strong conference. Recently the team swept the third-best conference team, Johns Hopkins University (6-4, 9-2).

The men’s and women’s basketball teams both had tremendous talent going into the season. The combination of an early season rise in COVID cases and key player injuries plagued the teams in conference records. By Feb. 1, the playoffs were in striking distance for the men’s team, in order to clinch a fifth-seed berth they needed to win five of their next six games. Statistically, a seemingly difficult task, but their opponents were in no way difficult games, and yet they lost four of them. The McDaniel College game was particularly upsetting, since the Mules had beaten the team by over 30 points earlier in the week. The game came down to the wire with the McDaniel Green Terror up by one with 17 seconds left. Coach Kevin Hopkins let the clock run down to 11 before he called the first timeout, the play drawn up put the ball in the hands of star Jayson Williams-Johnson ‘25, but gave him no support, forcing him to drive to the basket and fight for the point against seemingly the whole McDaniel’s five. This coaching not only lost a key game against McDaniel, but three close games against Washington College, Dickinson College and Haverford College.

Muhlenberg women’s lacrosse in a recent game against Swarthmore College were eliminated from playoff contention 11-8. The team had demonstrated great potential earlier in the season, staying in a close game against number two in the nation and CC competitor F&M.

This year Muhlenberg athletics has shown both their potential to be dominant in the Centennial Conference and their inability to deliver on that promise. Compared to the schools that have outplayed Muhlenberg Athletics this year, such as F&M and Ursinus, Muhlenberg spent $587,544 on men’s sport expenses excluding football and basketball, while F&M spent $614,669 and Ursinus spent $432,244, according to the U.S. Department of Education Equity in Athletics data analysis. Here, the evidence indicates that the Mules may have lost simply based on effort and not a failure of institutional support. Interestingly, the unspecific funds allocated by F&M and Ursinus to sports total to $3,665,600 and $2,702,363 respectively, while Muhlenberg spends only $710,899.

Coming off of two years without full seasons, Muhlenberg athletics failed to capitalize on the talent available to them— a challenge that must be confronted if Muhlenberg hopes to compete in future CC playoffs.

Women’s soccer ends spring offseason

By Tom Hiller
Sports Editor

photo courtesy of the Muhlenberg Athletics Department

Captain Emily DeAngelo ‘23 shields off an opponent from the ball.

Returning for the fall semester and its accompanying sports season might be too far away for some students to think about with the summer fast approaching. But for the Muhlenberg women’s soccer team, they are inching closer and closer to their fall return. The team, however, had an abysmal 2021 campaign, a 3-13-1 record including a 1-9 in-conference record, resulting in the Mules being tied with Ursinus College for dead last for winning percentage .100 in the Centennial Conference. With a new season comes an opportunity to shed off the narratives held onto from the season before, and the Mules will look to march forward.

The spring semester offered up a chance for the team to get back to the grindstone, put their heads down and work on their craft. The offseason work load consisted of three to four practices a week and a weight room program with strength coaches.

Midfielder Casie Burke ‘24 described Head Coach Dave Weitzman’s simple but imperative goal for the team this spring. “Practice like professionals and to put the work in during the offseason,” she said. Burke also had some personal goals for herself as well. Her main goal is to “improve on my foot skills along with my shot accuracy.”

Improving physical skills and techniques can make a good player, but working on the mental side can create a great one. Returning captain Emily DeAngelo ‘23 wants to master the latter, “[What] I really wanted to focus on this offseason was team bonding and bringing the team even closer together off the field, because that will carry over onto the field. As far as soccer is concerned, I have been trying to take the ball up more on the dribble from defense and then joining the attack when the opportunity presents itself.”

The last major event left for the Mules this spring was a four-team scrimmage, Play-Day, with Wilkes University, Marywood University and Kings College on Apr. 24. The Mules competed in 60-minute matches against the three other clubs, capitalizing on playing against a team other than themselves.

The competition simulated the intensity and gamespeed that they will see in the fall. Burke saw this as an opportunity to see what kind of team her squad would be. “It was definitely an adjustment to play three games in a row after not play-

See **Soccer** page 11

enACT
What's the sustainabili-TEA?

enACT (Environmental Action Team) is thrilled to initiate our bi-weekly column, providing sustainable action updates on campus!

DINING SUSTAINABILITY

Earlier this semester, Dining Services welcomed two new interns to focus on sustainability, Margaux Epripret '22 and Anna Shigo '24 (joining Lead Sustainability Intern Lacey Pasco '23). Recent initiatives include the Berg Bites program, which alerts students to excess food from campus events through the iMuhlenberg app; the Weigh the Waste event to draw attention to food waste on April 27; vegan hamburger buns in all dining locations; and specials highlighting plant-based and locally grown foods. Goals for the next semester include sustainability assessments and working with Butter Valley Harvest to get the hydroponic garden operational again, which would grow vegetables right here on campus.

"TREE HOUSE"

Exciting news: the "Tree House" is back! The past few semesters, Muhlenberg's "Tree House" has served as typical MILE housing, however, in the fall 2022 semester, it'll be back to its sustainable, environmentally-conscious purpose. The house will act as the model sustainability house on campus with solar panels, compost bins and more. The "Tree House" will also host enACT events and offer a homey gathering place for environmentally-interested students on campus. Be on the lookout next semester for news about the house's comeback!

SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR

We'd like to thank Morgan Teitz for her hard work this semester as Muhlenberg's sustainability specialist. Unfortunately, she will be leaving after this school year. The administration is currently searching for part-time replacements in time for fall 2022. How this tumult in the position affects Muhlenberg's long-term sustainability goals remains to be seen. We hope the administration will consider making the role a full-time position to reinforce their commitment to sustainability.

ENACT UPDATES

We cannot wait to introduce The Muhlenberg Thrift Project! After our three successful clothing swaps, we wanted to create a more accessible opportunity for people to continue sharing free or fairly priced used student items. To start exploring, hop onto our Instagram page @berg_thriftproject_! We're thrilled to continue this project into fall 2022!

EnACT has had a wildly successful semester full of events ranging from environmental poetry and sustainable hygiene guides to Earth Shabbat and nature walking. Thank you to everyone who played a role this spring in bringing enACT back to life. We can't wait to see where it goes next.
Stay tuned for more Sustianbili-TEA updates next fall :)

From **Soccer** page 10

ing a competitive game since October. However, through the encouragement and guidance from our coaches and teammates, we were able to come together to win two of the three games. The competition was great! The day was exhausting, but with my teammates' constant enthusiasm and motivation it made the day that much better."

Winning matters. Although the previous statement is true, having scrimmages with zero playoff pressure gave the Mules the chance to try out different players and combinations of lineups as well. "Obviously we want to go in and win as much as possible, but the main purpose is for our players and coaches to experiment and try new things to see what works and what does not. For example, this past Sunday we had a lot of players play in positions that they have never played before," said DeAngelo.

Finding chemistry in the offseason can be extremely beneficial, especially for a young squad. Out of the 30 players on the team, the Mules will graduate four this spring and another four will be upcoming seniors in the fall. The vast majority of the women's soccer team is made up of underclassmen. "We are such a young team; so last season was definitely a building year with more than half of us never playing in a collegiate game before. I am very impressed with everyone's work off the field and determination to bring this program to the top," said Burke.

With such youthful players on the roster, there were bound to be some stock-risers this spring who were able to utilize the practice time to show improvement to the team as well as the coaches. For Burke, one teammate stood out, "Izzy Jacobson ['25] dealt with many injuries last season and was not able to play for a majority of the season. Watching her play in the Play-Day was so fun. She [nut]megged not only one player but two. Her technical skills vastly improved and did not go unnoticed by the team. Overall, the team is constantly growing and learning more about the game on and off the field."

The real 'Berg

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Buurman '25 hitting the ball on home plate.

By Matthew Baker-Grunza
Sports Editor

In a previous Muhlenberg weekly article: it's been two months since Justine Bergara '25 set the goal of making it to the playoffs and "to make a run to prove to Gettysburg [College] and McDaniels [College] that this freshman class is different, this team is different, Gettysburg be talking smack." On Apr. 24, the sturdy Mules got a chance to prove just that. In order to get the chance at the Centennial Conference Playoffs, and tie McDaniels for fourth, the Mules had to sweep the Bullets.

That Sunday was the second time this season that Mules had the opportunity to play at Cedar Creek Field. The weather was beautifully warm with a slight breeze. As the rays of sun pierced through the chain-link fence of the dugout and touched the Muhlenberg bats, the hearts and minds of the team seemed to warm with a feeling reminiscent to the beginning of the season—the same feeling as when they picked up a bat in the backyard 10 years ago. The weather and the feeling of competition had set the hearts of this team ablaze with the love of the game. The stage was set for what would later be described as "diesel" by announcer Max Weiner '22.

Thwap, Raya Kunes '24 threw the first pitch, and these two bitter rivals were playing ball. In the very first inning it was clear this game would go back and forth, until one defense made an error. Pitchers Page Forry of Gettysburg faced 24 batters and Kunes faced 27. Forry pitched two walks, Kunes pitched one. Forry pitched four strikeouts, Kunes three. The Mules fielded six ground outs and 11 fly outs, while the Bullets caught three and made the play for 10.

This was the story of the first Mule versus Bullets game, five hits to six hits, or at least that was the story till the bottom of the sixth inning. There was one out and catcher Genna Cicchetti '22 was up to bat. Cicchetti, a leader for the team often seen screaming at her teammates halfway between home and the mound, was now standing in the box where she's batted for an average of .300 in her three seasons at 'Berg with a career high average of .340 so far this year. The pitch came a little slow for Cicchetti's liking—guess that's all Forry could give her—and crushed it to left field for a double. Then, infielder Kaitlyn Buurman '25 came up to bat, and the pitch came and went, but not before Cicchetti stole third. Buurman stepped out of the box quickly then took her two practice swings, evaluated the field, fixed her mask. Bang! The ball was flying to right field, where it was caught, but the sac fly Buurman had hit was far enough to bring in the winning run.

Buurman commented after the game that, "It's always so exciting to be a part of something bigger than yourself. I'm glad I get to play my heart out with girls that have the same goals and mission that I do." Buurman's teammate and shortstop for the team, Kaya Mahy '25, echoed similar sentiments saying, "The energy we [had] as a whole team [was] unmatched and electric."

But the Mules didn't stop there, it was time for the second game of the doubleheader, and with the confidence from the first, the Mules star pitcher Cora Bridgers '22 ran onto the field. She continued to put on a show by setting a new career high of 12 strikeouts.

Bridger's performance was unmatched, but Gettysburg successfully took their first and only lead in the second. The Mules quickly stopped the bleeding, stranding two Bullets on base. The next few innings continued with this same back and forth between the two teams until the bottom of the fifth. The Mules were playing on two outs when Cicchetti got the bats going again. The Mules ended the inning with five hits and three runs. The next two innings the Mules did not allow a single hit and walked away from the field with a sweep.

The Bullets did not walk off the field with their heads held high. As they hung their heads, they began to type away on an anonymous platform called Yik Yak. Insults included, "Muhl softball is the least classy program in the centennial conference" and "Muhlenberg's catcher eats tuna." It was a true shame that Gettysburg couldn't bring honor to their name as they descended into sixth.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Opening in football country

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Coach Milne hyping up his team.

The Mules will open their 2022 season against defending DIII champs.

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

While the stereotypical answer given by a coach regarding a specific game might be, every game matters, some regular season games have more weight than any others on the schedule. There are some opponents that teams circle on their calendars from the moment they are released. This is the experience that the Mules have been wanting for a long time and will finally have the chance to experience: what it means to play football in Texas. The team will open next season with what could be the biggest regular season game in school history at Mary Hardin-Baylor on Sept. 3. Mary Hardin-Baylor is an up and coming Texas powerhouse who have won two NCAA championships; their first ever in 2018 and then coming in as the defending champs, beating North Central (Ill) 57-24 in the title game last year.

"We haven't changed our approach, especially in the offseason. Darin Thomas and the strength staff are focused on preparing our team to be in great shape and have a great plan in place for summer strength and conditioning," said Head Coach Nate Milne. "Our focus is always internal until we arrive at game week. It's very exciting, but our success has come from being consistent week in and week out, regardless of who the opponent is."

Defensive coordinator Kory David is not looking to change things either. "Well, it is pretty simple for me, in our spring season I stress the fundamentals and try to hammer home to work on our techniques," David said. "So that [way], when we come in August, we can load up in the scheme aspect as we have more meeting and walkthrough time." The semester is coming to a close and with that, the spring season. "We have one more week of spring sessions and then a couple practices before we head to Spain. Following that it is up to the team to be in great shape in August for preseason," said Milne.

This is a great opportunity for the Mules, and wide-receiver Thomas Jenkins '23 is thrilled to get the chance to play this team. "We are extremely excited. When Coach Milne announced the game to us the room erupted. This is a great opportunity for us to go down to Texas and play against the team that won it all last year, not everyone gets to do that," Jenkins said.

Even though the team realizes that this is no ordinary regular season game, they have remained focused and are sticking to the formulas that have taken them to two Elite Eights in 2018 and 2021 and a Final Four in 2019. While the summers get hectic, the ultimate goal is never lost with this team. "Summers are crazy as the guys will be doing internships or working summer jobs but there is a trust and understanding amongst the team," said David. "The players will take care of the physical aspect because they understand what hardwork is and what is expected of them to come in and compete in August. We know Mary Hardin-Baylor will be a heck of a game but we will continue the process that has gotten us to where we are now."

"We have always had the same mindset, we are going to take it one game at a time and focus on doing what we have to do every day, one day at a time, to win a championship," said Jenkins. "Yes, there's some more excitement because of the type of game we are opening with, but right now all we can do is focus on preparing for that first moment."

Playing the defending national champions is no joke, and the team knows they will have to be at their best in their opening game of the season. But this is nothing new to this team. They have shown time and time again that when they are at their best on both sides of the ball, they can beat anyone.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Apr. 28 - May. 5

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Swarthmore
Fri, Apr. 29 @ 3:30 p.m.
Cedar Creek Field

Women's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg
vs
McDaniel
Sat, Apr. 30 @ 12:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Track and Field
Muhlenberg
vs
Carol & John Covert Classic
Sat, Apr. 30
Bethlehem, Pa.

Women's Track and Field
Muhlenberg
vs
Carol & John Covert Classic
Sat, Apr. 30
Bethlehem, Pa.